THE TRIUMPH OF FAITH OVER THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL;

EXEMPLIFIED IN THE

LIFE, DEATH, and ſpiritual EXPERIENCE,

OF THAT BURNING AND SHINING LIGHT

MRS. *JOANNA TURNER*,

Who departed this Life on the 24th of DECEMBER 1784,

In the FIFTY-THIRD Year of her AGE.

And I heard a voice from Heaven ſaying unto me, Write, Bleſſed are the dead that die in the Lord, from henceforth: Yea, ſaith the Spirit, that they may reſt from their labours; and their works do follow them. Rev. xiv. 13.

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PREFACE.

To the Reader,

AS there are two principles in man, the one *earthly*, the other *heavenly*: and as we take it for granted that every rational man, when he is in his right mind, would wiſh to have the heavenly principle grow and increaſe, till it prevail over and ſubdue the earthly principle in him, and qualify him to partake with and enjoy the privileges of the ſaints on earth, which are, "*Righteouſneſs*, *peace*, and *joy* in the HOLY GHOST," — and likewiſe to be a partaker with and enjoy the bleſſedneſs of the ſaints in heaven: — ſo, any method that can be found to help to ſubdue the earthly and

carnal, and promote the heavenly and divine principle, ſhould be received by us as a valuable medicine calculated for our good.

FAITH ſeems to be the grand recipe, in the diſpenſatory of heaven, to effect this mighty work within us: for it is there ſaid, in the great phyſician's book called the ſcriptures, — that it is "*faith* which getteth the victory" over our corrupt nature; — that our "hearts are purified by *faith*;" — that it is "*faith* which overcometh the world;"—by "the ſhield of *faith* we repel all the fiery darts of the devil;"—"by *faith* we are ſaved" from all the evil conſequences of the fall. And though we know we cannot effect or produce faith within us, but muſt receive it immediately from God, as a free unmerited gift; yet we may deprive our ſouls of the bleſſing,—by obſtructing it; — by rejecting the counſel of God againſt ourſelves; who ſaid, in the days of his fleſh, — "Have faith in GOD;" — by not prizing it as we ought; — by not thinking it worth aſking for; when Chriſt hath ſaid, "aſk, and ye ſhall have; ſeek, and ye "ſhall find; knock, and the door of mercy "ſhall be opened unto you!"

AND in Ezekiel he ſaith, — for all ſpiritual bleſſings, "he will be ſought unto of the houſe of Iſrael, to do it for them." St. James alſo ſaith, — "ye have not, becauſe

cauſe ye aſk not;" and ſometimes we miſs of the bleſſing, by aſking from wrong motives, and with a ſelfiſh view, — "ye aſk, and receive not, becauſe ye aſk amiſs, that ye may conſume it upon your luſts." The earthly ſpirit that dwelleth in us luſteth to envy: and often we deſire faith that we may have power over evil things for *our own* glory; that we may appear greater ſaints than others: — not, that GOD may be glorified in effecting the change, and *we* humbled under a ſenſe that of ourſelves we can do nothing but ſin; — but, that we may have the honor that cometh from men. — Which motive is ſufficient, at any time, to rob us of the bleſſing; for Chriſt hath ſaid, — "How can ye believe, who ſeek honor one of another, and not the honor that cometh from God only?"

And as there are thus many hindrances to our receiving the gift of faith; ſo there are likewiſe many ways of *increaſing*, of ſtrengthning, and of ſtirring up that divine principle, when it is wrought in us. As a wicked man ſought by his endeavours "to turn the Deputy *from* the faith;" ſo it is in the power of good men, by their examples and precepts, to be builders up of each other *in* the faith: for faith cometh by *hearing*, as well as *prayer*, — hearing the word of God from pious and devoted men. Paul ſaid to the diſciples at Rome, "I long

to ſee you, that I may impart unto you ſome ſpiritual gift, to the end you may be eſtabliſhed, that I may be comforted together with you, by the mutual faith both of you and me." And in another place he obſerved, for him "to abide in the fleſh was more needful to his friends, for their furtherance and joy of faith:" — and again, that we ſhould "ſtrive together for the faith of the Goſpel;" and that we may be "nouriſhed up by others in faith, and good doctrine, whereunto they have attained." The ſame apoſtle intimates, that Timothy's unfeigned faith was nouriſhed and ſtrengthened, by ſeeing the faith of his grandmother Lois, and his mother Eunice. And, as he ſays, that it is poſſible for wicked men, ſuch as Hymeneus and Philetus, to overthrow the faith of ſome; ſo the ſociety of the good, is a mean of ſtrengthning each other in the faith; as ſaith St. Jude, after ſpeaking of "certain men crept in unawares among them, having men's perſons in admiration becauſe of advantage," — "but ye beloved, build up yourſelves, or one another, in your moſt holy faith." St. Paul, moreover, recommends to us, to walk in the ſteps of thoſe departed in the faith, — "Walk in the ſteps of the faith of Abraham, and be ye followers of them, who by faith and patience inherit the promiſes."

We

We may judge from obſervation, from our own experience, and from ſcripture, that there is nothing more nouriſhing and ſtrengthning to that divine principle of life in the ſoul — FAITH; than converſing with very ſpiritual perſons, whoſe time and talents are employed in doing the will of God: or in reading the hiſtories of eminently devoted perſons, who have fought the good fight of faith, and have finiſhed their courſe, to the glory of God, and are now enjoying the crown. For as a *feigned*, or *true* hiſtory, of a perſon who is deſcribed as living after the ſpirit of *this world*, ſupplies nutriment to the *earthly* PRINCIPLE in us; — our carnal covetouſneſs and ambition, fixed upon fading glories, periſhing riches and pleaſures: — ſo, on the other hand, the hiſtory of the lives of the ſaints of old, and of thoſe of later date, who have been eminently devoted and given up unto God in all things, — adminiſters to our *better* PRINCIPLE, the vital influences of the HOLY SPIRIT; who, in greater or leſs diſplays of his quickning and renewing power, inhabits in every one that is, more than in *name*, a CHRISTIAN. — The account of their faith, love, and holy zeal for God, animates and ſets us all on fire; and as it were transforms us into the ſame holy inclinations, the ſame divinely fervent affections, we read were enjoyed by thoſe

devoted

devoted ſouls: — and, as the publiſher of the life of an illuſtrious ſervant of God, in the laſt century ſaith, "So much would we LOVE, — ſo much would we *do*, ſo much would we *ſuffer!*" And, if I may apply the apoſtle's words ſpoken of the LORD, to his holy followers, — "We, beholding as in a glaſs, the glory of theſe ſaints, are changed into the ſame image, from glory to glory, even by the Spirit of our God:" whilſt both the ſweet conſolations which ſuch have found in God's ſervice, — "ſweeter than honey and the honey-comb," — allure us to an imitation of their God-glorifying life; and their treading the way before us, in the obſervance of the moſt difficult precepts of the Goſpel, and enduring the greateſt hardſhips in the Chriſtian warfare, convinces us of the practicability of overcoming all our ſpiritual enemies by the "Sword of the Spirit and the ſhield of Faith:" — and invites us to follow their conquering ſteps, under HIS banner who hath promiſed to make us "more than conquerors, through him that hath loved us and given himſelf for us!"

By peruſing the lives of the *modern* ſaints we are ſtill more encouraged to go and do likewiſe: becauſe ſatan, the world, and the carnal nature, would hinder us from imitating the ſaints *of old*, and our DIVINE MASTER;

MASTER; who hath not only commanded, but left us an *example*, that we ſhould follow his ſteps, and promiſed grace ſufficient for it,—by ſuggeſting, that none but a GOD-*Man*, or thoſe who lived in the *early* times of the goſpel, when the firſt fruits of the Spirit were more potent and lively, his favors more eminent, and men, by mutual example, were more inflamed with LOVE,—could tread in ſuch a holy path as *they* trod, or ſuffer the loſs of all things, for Chriſt's ſake, like *them*. But, when we ſee perſons of *our own* day;—of our own rank and ſituation in life; of the ſame narrow capacity and ability with ourſelves; of a like diſpoſition to idolize the creature, exalt ſelf, and purſue with ardour the pleaſures, profits, and honors of the world,—forſake ALL for *God:* and, taking up their daily croſs, follow Chriſt without the camp, bearing his reproach, his crucifixion to the world and all its vanities:—*then* are we ſtirred up *indeed*, with a hope that *all things* which God commands are *poſſible* to be done;—not only by Patriarchs, Prophets, Evangeliſts, St. Paul, and the other Apoſtles, and *primitive* Saints and Diſciples—but alſo—by ALL *ſincere* Chriſtians, in *every age* of the Church, through CHRIST *living in and ſtrengthening them!*

It is with this view that I preſent the world with the MEMOIRS of a life ſo ſingularly

larly devoted to God, as the late Mrs. TURNER's; — becauſe I think the reading of it, in a ſpirit of prayer, will have a tendency to ſtir up *others* to ſeek that faith of God once delivered to the ſaints, which enabled *her* to ſubdue the *earthly*, and advance and eſtabliſh the DIVINE *nature* in her Soul. It was with a view that *others*, ſeeing her good works, might glorify her Father which is in Heaven, by following her as ſhe followed Chriſt, — that I was led to pray for the power of recollection, and a ſanctified uſe of my memory, in order to note down, to the glory of God and the encouragement of the ſaints, all the incidents Mrs. Turner related to me, from time to time, of her religious life and experience: — which ſhe did, I am perſuaded, with a view to ſtir me up to a deſire after *faith* and power from above, to do, ſuffer, and enjoy *the ſame*; and to magnify the grace of God in the compleat ſalvation of her ſoul!

I was likewiſe greatly encouraged in this holy work, by finding the Lord, in anſwer to prayer, marvellouſly ſtrengthened my, otherwiſe, very weak memory; and brought to my mind, without any other help, all that ſhe had told me of the dealings of God with her ſoul: — which is corroborated by her own papers and letters.

It was an additional encouragement, after I had written her life, to find a work of the ſame

ſame kind begun by herſelf, treating of her days of childhood, carried as far as her nineteenth year; and then breaking off abruptly, juſt at the period where my narrative began: — yet not breaking off, till ſhe had introduced ſome hints concerning her attachment to the faſhionable amuſements of the age; — which had been *objected to* in mine.

I was ſtill further incited, by hearing that a *verbal* account of her life and experience, but juſt before her death, was made a mean, in the hands of God, of bringing forth a precious ſoul from the ſtrong holds of ſin and ſatan: — and enabling one who had before lived in the ardent purſuit of the vanities of this world, to deny herſelf, take up her croſs, and come out from amongſt them, and be a follower of a crucified Saviour! To which I think it proper to add, that my hands have been ſtrengthened of the Spirit of God, from time to time, by feeling a divine power and ſweetneſs to accompany, not only the *writing* of it, to my own ſoul, but likewiſe the *reading* of it, to the ſouls of many; who have acknowledged, to the glory of God, that they have felt it come with a divine influence and unction to their hearts! It has already carried ſuch weight with ſome, and been attended with ſuch powerful efficacy, as to fire them with a holy zeal againſt things

condemned

condemned by her conduct; — ſuch as reading romances, conformity to the world in vain and unbecoming modes of dreſs! &c. &c. — OTHERS, that have been aſhamed of the croſs of Chriſt, have been convinced of the ſin; and made to abhor and mourn over their vile ingratitude and infidelity!

And, I truſt, many, yet wedded to their own will and way, among the profeſſors of the preſent age; — divided betwixt God and mammon, ſeeking to enjoy *both* Kingdoms; — will, when they have read the precious privileges enjoyed by the ſubject of theſe MEMOIRS, do as *ſhe* did — forſake ALL for God; — all that is a hinderance to the growth of their ſouls! And many more of ages yet unborn, — if the Lord be pleaſed to permit theſe pages to be publiſhed, and to add his BLESSING to the work, — may, when the unworthy writer is laid in the ſilent grave, — glorify GOD for the uſe it has been made of to their precious ſouls!

I am ſenſible that theſe MEMOIRS will need to be read with an *indulgent* eye: for they are, doubtleſs, full of faults and imperfections, which the weak inſtrument that has been employed in the work had not ſkill enough to diſcern; and the more enlightened and ſkilful have overlooked, or not thought of importance enough to *alter*, leſt,

leſt, by endeavouring to mend ſome few faults, they mar the whole, and ſpoil its uſefulneſs to the ſimple-hearted ſpiritual reader! — I therefore humbly intreat the wiſe, the learned, the prudent profeſſors of chriſtianity to remember — "*there are divers* FORMS in the ſchool of Chriſt!" — If THEY are too *learned* to be taught by theſe pages, they ſhould not hinder the *Babes* in Chriſt from learning their ALPHABET! But, ſurely, it is poſſible, that the meaneſt inſtrument and weakeſt performance, in the ſight of men, may be made uſeful to the wiſe, the learned, the diſputers of this world, — if the SPIRIT OF GOD be pleaſed to accompany it with HIS *power* and *influence* to the heart! — Witneſs, the little Hebrew *captive* maid in Syria; — how uſeful were her inſtructions to the learned, wiſe, and diſcreet favourite of a mighty King; nay, the Syrian Monarch himſelf revered her counſel ſo far, as to ſanction it with his notice and mediation! — And NAAMAN found it good to *follow* it, and to condeſcend to be cured of his leproſy, by the very *mean* and *ſimple* operation, of *waſhing ſeven times in* JORDAN; though his pride, wiſdom and knowledge were greatly hurt by the ſubmiſſion!

However, it is certain, the whole performance comes abroad under many defects.

and diſadvantages. For Mr. TURNER not being able to go through the very affecting taſk to his feelings, of looking over his wife's papers in due time: — from hence many painful delays and hinderances have ariſen, to retard its publication and mar its beauty: — as it was written over, *firſt*, from my memory: — after which, Letters were ſent from Briſtol, which, though corroborating what I had ſaid, occaſioned me to tranſcribe it *again*: and ſubſequent to this, Mr. Turner found ſome papers of his wife's neceſſary to be inſerted, which occaſioned a *third* going over the work. A kind friend who was firſt employed to correct it, being engaged with a ſchool, kept it more than half a year in his hands: and it waited another half year, before Mr. Turner, the publiſher, could well attend to the reading of it to give it his ſanction. And laſtly, many more journals and papers, proper to be inſerted, were found; which occaſioned a *fourth* tranſcribing by the memorialiſt. I muſt therefore beg my readers to make all due allowances, for theſe delays and hinderances to the conciſeneſs, beauty, and uniformity of the work; as it is well known, PIECE-WORK is not ſo ſmooth to the feeling, nor ſo beautiful to the eye, in general, as one continued, equable texture and ſurface! — No narrative can be expected

pected to be ſo *nicely* put out of hand, which has had ſo many breaks in the firſt thread!

As it is, I preſent it to the world, beſeeching their candid peruſal, and begging they would pray for a *bleſſing* from the LORD, before they read it; — and then, I doubt not, but they will find ſome things in it, both pleaſing and profitable! And what they do *not* yet underſtand, — as there are many things in it unintelligible to an unexperienced chriſtian, — I beg them to pray for faith to believe they ſhall be enabled to do it, if they ſeek "the wiſdom that cometh down from above:" and when underſtood, they will find it a treaſure indeed, even the Goſpel pearl of great price, which lies hid under the deſpiſed garb of a FEMALE ſaint, and the outward rubbiſh of FEMALE compoſition!

As for its *tedious* LENGTH, as ſome may eſteem it, it muſt be aſcribed to the preſſing deſire of ſome ſpiritual friends, to have as many as poſſible of Mrs. Turner's valuable papers inſerted, they eſteeming them ineſtimable treaſures of heavenly wiſdom: — and ſo they will indeed be found, by all *ſpiritual* readers who dig deep into their contents, and ſpare no pains or expence, to get at the PEARLS to be found in the chriſtian experience of *eminently devoted* Saints!

Which that all may, to the great increaſe and advancement of their *ſpiritual* and *eternal* intereſt, who read theſe MEMOIRS, I humbly intreat of the God of all grace: — to whom be the praiſe, the power, and the glory aſcribed, now, henceforth, and for ever! Amen.

MARY WELLS.

JUNE 20, 1787.

THE

LIFE AND DEATH

OF

MRS. *JOANNA TURNER.*

MRS. JOANNA TURNER, the ſubject of the following MEMOIRS; whoſe memory is ſo dear to her friends, and whoſe acquaintance was ſo ineſtimable to all who were favoured with it, — was the daughter of Mr. JOHN COOK, of TROWBRIDGE in the County of WILTS, Clothier.

Among her papers, after her deceaſe, was found, — written with her own hand, — an Account of the *early* part of her life; which I will tranſcribe nearly as ſhe has expreſſed it, — and connect it with the memorable particulars I received, at different times, from her own lips, and from her intimate friends, whoſe veracity may be

depended on; to whom ſhe ſeverally related the ſame things.

Her NARRATIVE begins with obſerving: —— "I was born Anno Domini 1732; and began to be unhappy very early, through my proud paſſionate diſpoſition. When at play, I wanted every thing my own way; or would be affronted and threaten to go away, I well remember, when I did not intend it, that my playmates might ſtoop to me and intreat me to ſtay. Oh, what an early hold hath the devil in the human heart; — in *mine* I am ſure he had; for I bore his image, his ſuperſcription!

My Uncle Shrapnell uſed to tell my Mother ſhe ought to correct me: and more than once, I remember, he himſelf attempted it when I diſcovered theſe tempers at his houſe; but I cried and held my breath in ſuch a frightful manner, as diſtreſſed my tender Mother; — ſo that I do not remember ſhe ever corrected or *ſeverely* chid me: nor do I recollect that ever I was ſubdued or ſoftned by any means of that kind; — but on the contrary, was made more furious and deſperate by them.

When I was between eight and nine years of age, my dear mother died. — I was exceedingly affected at her death. — I believed ſhe was happy, but was affrighted

ed for myſelf leſt I ſhould die: and thought much of Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. I heard the people about me ſay, my mother was a good woman; — ſhe prayed, and read the ſcriptures and other good books in her chamber, and received the ſacrament conſtantly. I remember, one Lord's-day, when I and my youngeſt brother were at home with her, I obſerved the tears trickle down her cheeks while ſhe read a little book: — I went and kiſſed her, and looked into it, for I could read when very young, and perceived the TITLE to be, "He will not break the bruiſed reed." Many years after, when I had a little ſpiritual light given me, I providentially met with the book, — and found it full of the goſpel. I doubt not but my mother gave me many good inſtructions, though I was ſo very ignorant that I never underſtood them:—but, after her death, I wiſhed and tried to be good; was careful not to tell lies, nor play on the Lord's-day.

Having a little book given me, entitled "Prayers for children," I uſed theſe prayers for a long time with great exactneſs, praying ſeven times a day; becauſe, on reading the pſalms, I remarked, DAVID called ſo often on the Lord. I uſed to petition for meekneſs, humility, and the other good diſpoſitions I wanted; ſtriving

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at the ſame time, as well as I could, againſt *anger* particularly, and other ſins to which I was tempted. I read of a Roman Emperor, I think it was, who was PASSIONATE, and checked the riſings of anger by repeating the Greek Alphabet; but I thought it would be better for *me* to ſay the LORD'S PRAYER. — This I did, ſometimes, running up into my chamber and falling upon my knees; — at other times, repeating it inwardly. — I ſuppoſe I was obſerved in this part of my conduct; for I remember to have heard ſome people ſay — "I was an extraordinary child." Indeed, the Lord guided me though I did not know him! I learned whatever was appointed me very faſt: and liked the company of old people better than childiſh play, unleſs my companions would hear me read.

The ſame relation that gave me my prayer-book preſented me with Janeway's *Token for Children*. On reading the DEDICATION I could not proceed for tears, — but do not remember the STORIES affected me much, at that time: but a little half-penny book, called a chriſtmas carol, put me upon thinking about the BLESSED SAVIOUR, — and though unſeen and unknown, I think I did love him!

I was not yet nine years old: but *pride* then grew very ſtrong; and I was much captivated

captivated by DRESS, — could do any thing, ſuffer any thing, to be *fine*. And, as I loved reading, all books of entertainment were peruſed by me with ſuch a reliſh, that I could leave every thing — *but* FINE CLOTHES, for them — I gradually left off the uſe of prayer, except night and morning.

When between twelve and thirteen I was put to a very genteel boarding-ſchool; indeed, too high for my fortune: but as I had a firſt couſin there, about my own age, her mama prevailed on my father to ſend me thither alſo. — My pride and vanity was heightned at the proſpect, and conſtant mortifications were the conſequents.

I ſoon left off praying, and reading my Bible; and in ſhort, was never happy but in reading romances, novels, plays and other books of the devil's inſpiring: and more than once attempted to write them myſelf; ſo full was I of wickedneſs at that tender age, — not yet thirteen! — But this was not all: ——

One of the ſervants at ſchool wanted to borrow a ſhilling of me, at a time when all my money was ſpent, and I was expecting more, but was too proud to tell her I had none: therefore, took an opportunity to ſteal a ſhilling out of the drawer of a young lady, who ſlept in the ſame chamber with me;

me; hoping it would be in my power to replace it before it would be miſſed. — I do not remember that I had any painful feelings at the time I ſtole it, nor any checks of conſcience for denying it; which I ſuppoſe I did, with the other ſcholars, when examined upon it: — but when I was tried with the bible and key, as was the cuſtom, to ſee whoſe hand *ſhook* moſt; I recollect putting up moſt earneſt petitions, and crying mightily to God, to preſerve me from ſhame. — I was afraid I ſhould tremble or bluſh on examination, and ſo diſcover my guilt: — but wonderful was the goodneſs of the LORD, and ſo it appeared to me at the time, as an anſwer to prayer, that he did not ſuffer it to be diſcovered! — But, ſeven years afterwards, how did I *ſorrow* for that ſin! — I would have given all my ſubſtance to have atoned for this ſin of my ſoul!

A letter I received about this time from my brother Coles, with theſe words in it, greatly affected me, — "I doubt not but you *read your* BIBLE *and* PRAY; thoſe ſeeds of early piety, &c. which were ſo diſcoverable in you:" — I was filled with anguiſh, thinking what a HYPOCRITE I was, and how people were deceived in me; — for I neither *read my* BIBLE *nor prayed*. I firſt omitted this duty through ſhame of being ſeen by thoſe who ſlept in the ſame room with

ith me: — Wretch that I was, — to be ſhamed of *my duty*, and not aſhamed of reaking the DIVINE *commands!* We uſed o play at cards till midnight for money; nd by this way of ſpending time and moey I ruſhed into the above ſin, which I hall never forget; — neither my own abohinable wickedneſs, nor the great goodeſs of the LORD in hearing the prayers of uch a ſinner, and preſerving me from the *hame* and *puniſhment* due to my ſin. And to his day, when I read or hear of any being uilty of theft, and ſuffering ſhame or death, feel I deſerve it; and admire that I am ardoned, and bleſt above many of my ellow ſinners with teſtimonies of regard, oth from God and man: — but it is all f *free grace*; and let none *deſpair* ſince *I ave obtained mercy!*

While I was at ſchool my dear father narried, and I ſoon returned home, and was, if poſſible, more miſerable than ever. With every change of *ſituation* I promiſed myſelf new *happineſs*; and as I was ſo much accuſtomed to read romances, I never wanted for ſtrong expectations and lively ideas of increaſing pleaſure; and was as conſtantly diſappointed. It pleaſed the Lord to make uſe of my mother-in-law, as an inſtrument to mortify me, and diſappoint me, in every thing ſhe could. Obſerving I wanted to *ſhew away* and cut a

FIGURE

FIGURE in life, ſhe conſtantly croſſed m
in a manner that could not but diſguſt; —
but as ſhe is dead I muſt be ſilent, an
conſider — Who appointed the rod!

When I was about *ſeventeen* my dear fa
ther died; of whom I cannot recolle
that he ever corrected or chid me. H
was the moſt peaceable and calm in his di
poſition of any man I ever knew. Hi
death greatly affected and afflicted me.
felt myſelf expoſed to the world without
friend; reflected on ſome whoſe parent
died while they were young, and were no
extremely wretched, through their takin
imprudent ſteps in extravagancies of ſom
kind or other. Surely, mercy and good
neſs hath followed me; my ways hav
been wonderfully hedged up! For, now
was become my own miſtreſs, and migh
do as I pleaſed — I was filled with ſuch
fear, care, and caution over my conduct
that nothing appeared to me *amiable* o
worth *purſuing* but to live and act right
— I wanted to learn œconomy, prudence
and neatneſs; and to improve myſelf in
every thing that was uſeful.

About this time a remarkable thought
faſtened upon my mind: — "that my dea
Mother, who had been dead near ten
years, was a *guardian* ANGEL to me, and
was a witneſs to every thing I ſaid and
did:" — and I really wiſhed and endea-
voured

voured to do, what, if she were living, I thought would please her! I went to church constantly on Lord's-days, and frequently on prayer-days; and almost constantly wept when that part of the Litany was read which mentions "*fatherless children;*" — no other part of the service affected me like *that!*

As soon as we could settle our affairs my youngest brother was put apprentice; my eldest brother lived by himself: — and, glory be to GOD, I was taken by my dear brother Coles to board with him, who worshipped GOD with his family! Here I met with religious books: — immediately began to read them, and to throw aside my vain romances. — Some, which were my own, I burnt; observing an example set me in the ACTS of the APOSTLES, and finding at times an inclination to them — I thought it best to destroy them.

My brother's books were a great help to me; and I began to understand them, and likewise to attend closely to preaching. A good woman that lodged at my brother's was also made useful to me by talking to me on religious subjects. I became now deeply convinced of sin: — that I was conceived in it, and that every duty, — the *best that I could perform*, — reading, praying, giving alms, talking of religion &c. &c. — When I came to reflect upon

 it,

it, as I conſtantly did afterwards; — notwithſtanding all my endeavours, — I ſaw SIN, like the dead fly in the Apothecary's ointment, cauſed all to ſend forth a ſtinking ſavour! — Oh, the anguiſh and grief I felt on account of ſin! — I earneſtly wiſhed to repent and truly mourn before GOD!

I then left off praying with a *form*, and cried from my *heart* for mercy. I endeavoured to be better; — but as often as I attempted to amend, ſo often did I offend again; and *again* grieve and mourn. At laſt I was afraid to *ſpeak*; — for it was with my tongue I did moſt conſtantly offend, in ſpeaking what I ought not, or not ſpeaking what I ſhould. After a common converſation, in which perhaps I have had but a very ſmall ſhare, *one* WORD would appear to me to have ſo much ſin in it, that I have feared I could never be pardoned, and have thought GOD could not be juſt without ſending me to hell for it; and often expected the earth to open and ſwallow me up. My THOUGHTS, likewiſe, were brought to the bar of conſcience and condemned; I was greatly concerned becauſe I could not be always thinking upon heavenly and divine things, and about my ſoul concerns. By *day* when alone, I was reading or praying; By *night*, when ever I awoke, I roſe to pray; and if I could not fix my thoughts

in

in meditation, I repeated to myſelf ſome chapters I had learned out of the BIBLE, and ſelect pieces of *ſacred* Poetry, — particularly, out of " Watts's Lyric poems." Such ſcriptures as theſe, at times, afforded me refreſhment; — " Come, and let us reaſon together ſaith the Lord, though your ſins be as ſcarlet they ſhall be as " white as ſnow" &c. — Let the wicked forſake his ways, and " the unrighteous man his thoughts" &c. — But *this* portion of HOLY WRIT alarmed me much; — " Can the Ethiopian change his ſkin, and the leopard his ſpots" &c. — No ſin diſtreſſed me ſo much as *ſtealing the* SHILLING while at ſchool, and ſome *halfpence* from ſome near relations, at different times. — I thought I was the greateſt ſinner that ever breathed, and that it was a mercy the laws of the land had not been executed upon me; — that I deſerved condemnation from GOD and man. I was, notwithſtanding, ſweetly comforted by that ſcripture, — " Let him that ſtole, ſteal no more; but " rather let him labour, working with his " hands the thing that is good, that he may " have to give to him that needeth:"—This word, I ſuppoſed, ſuited my caſe; becauſe I thought it was neceſſity drove me to ſteal, and that I had not ſtrength to reſiſt the temptation.

I now began to amend my conduct; I refrained from *idle* visits to work for my relations and poor people; and added works of mercy to my industry, by giving away all the money I could spare; but nothing could satisfy my guilty conscience; — "CURSED is every one that continueth not in all things written in the book of the LAW to do them;" and "He that offendeth in *one* point, is guilty of all;" — constantly rang in my ears. — I acknowledged that my condemnation was just; and though in HELL *in endless torments*, I thought I must acquit GOD of the least injustice! But oh, thought I,—if He would shew *mercy*, and be pleased to *forgive* me, — How I should *love* him! — Indeed I loved him for his *goodness* already bestowed in keeping my soul *out of* HELL, in sparing me *from the shame* my sins deserved!

One day I read a sermon, I have forgot by whom, on this Text, —"Who was made a curse for us, for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree;" — and the vail of my heart was rent: my eyes were anointed with the divine eye-salve: — I BELIEVED: I saw the blessed Lamb of GOD was *my* Surety and *my* Saviour; that for *me* his blessed hands and feet were pierced, and his side opened; — that he suffered death for *my* sins, and wrought out a righteousness for *me*; — that GOD the father

father accepted *me* in his *beloved* SON; — and that he was JUST *in juſtifying* ſuch an *ungodly* WRETCH as I was!

From this bleſſed time I was a NEW CREATURE indeed; — had new *ſight*, new *feeling*, new *faculties!* — My language was, "Bleſs the Lord O my ſoul! who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diſeaſes!" I gained ſpiritual ſtrength to run in the ways of GOD's commandments. All earthly enjoyments were lighter than vanity in my eyes, and JESUS was the chiefeſt of ten thouſand in my ſight. — I wondered I had never ſeen theſe things before, — was aſtoniſhed at my former ignorance, and tranſported with my preſent diſcoveries!

I ſaw CHRIST in the ſcape-gate; — in the city of refuge, — and throughout the OLD TESTAMENT; whereas, formerly, I could not diſcern any thing of him but in the four EVANGELISTS. Now, the eighth of Romans, and many chapters in St. John, Iſaiah, the Pſalms, the Epiſtles to the churches, and, indeed, the whole BIBLE, were "ſweeter to me than the honey or the honey-comb." I read the baptiſmal office, and took the ſacred engagements of my ſponſors on myſelf, being determined through grace to be the LORD's.

On learning my catechiſm afreſh, I conſidered the nature of the Lord's-ſupper:

and as there was no Biſhop to confirm in our neighbourhood, and I did not think it right to defer the receiving it, I was deſirous to conſult the miniſter; but not having opportunity or courage, I communicated, about the nineteenth year of my age; — and felt great pleaſure in the thought that I had profeſſed my ſelf a CHRISTIAN.

A Book my brother uſed to read on a Sunday-evening, deſcriptive of the marks of the new birth, was made very uſeful to me at this time. O, how rejoiced was I, on examining myſelf, to find that, through the abounding grace of GOD, I had *the marks!* And there was a form of the ſoul's covenanting, or giving itſelf up to God, which the author recommended. I did it with great ſolemnity, and ſigned it with my name: I had it upon my mind to prick my ſelf and ſign it with my BLOOD, in token of my love and zeal; — what prevented I cannot remember. — THUS run the words of the Covenant:

The COVENANT.

" O LORD GOD! the maker of heaven and earth: by whoſe word, and for whoſe glory, I and all creatures were made! I am now come to acknowledge thee as the author of my being, the preſerver of my life, and the giver of every good thing I enjoy; and, therefore, do now ſubmit my ſelf to thee as my rightful OWNER, and ſovereign

vereign LORD and FATHER! I have ſinned againſt heaven, and in thy ſight, and am no more worthy to be called thy child; I ſhall think myſelf highly honoured, and very happy, if thou wilt receive me as one of thy meaneſt ſervants!

I bring thee a creature of thine own, that has been ſtraying from thee! This ſoul and body, now proſtrate at thy foot-ſtool, I humbly offer unto thee: that thou mayeſt go over thy work again, and create me anew after thine own image; and ſo will I be thy faithful ſervant as long as I live!

O BLESSED JESUS! If thou wilt now take my part and plead my cauſe with thy father, I am ready to profeſs myſelf thy diſciple *upon thine own* TERMS; and to follow thee, if my heart do not deceive me, whitherſoever thou goeſt! I do ſincerely give up myſelf to thy teaching and inſtruction; O, give me underſtanding, that I may know the truth as it is in JESUS! I do unfeignedly conſent to thy government, and, with a mind willing to obey thee, I can now ſay, "LORD what wilt thou have me to do!"

I will aſcribe all the honor of my ſalvation to thy meritorious death, and powerful interceſſion! In thee *alone* will I repoſe my truſt; and now, if my LORD will undertake that his *grace* ſhall be ſufficient for me, there is nothing too difficult to attempt,

tempt, or too much to ſuffer for thee! I do inliſt myſelf under thy banner as the great Captain of my ſalvation; affrighted at myſelf, to think, that I have been ſo long under the power and tyranny of the Devil, whom I ſhall, from this moment, reſiſt to the uttermoſt!

I am perſuaded that *this* WORLD is nothing but vanity and vexation of ſpirit; and therefore ſhall ſet myſelf, by thy help and according to thy example, to conquer it and bring it into ſubjection! I have found my own heart corrupt, wicked, and deceitful: and therefore ſhall no longer manage for myſelf; but ſhall rejoice to give up every thought, will, and affection entirely to thee! I am now deſirous to be thine, O LORD, ſo as not to be another's; THINE and not *the* WORLD'S; THINE and not MY OWN!

TO THEE, O HOLY SPIRIT! do I acknowledge myſelf indebted for theſe and all other good inclinations: and that I may be enabled to hold my preſent purpoſes, and to improve in a holy heavenly diſpoſition of mind, I now caſt myſelf upon thee, for all that direction and aſſiſtance which my circumſtances may require! Henceforward, I ſhall yield up myſelf to thy conduct and influences; and ſhall make it my care, to attend to all thy motions and convictions, both in performing *my duty*, and abſtaining

abſtaining *from ſin*; and ſo do thoſe things that may be well pleaſing to thee, O FATHER, SON, AND SPIRIT, with my *whole heart!*

I deſire, *freely* and *fully*, to devote myſelf to thee; chuſing THEE for my everlaſting portion, and purpoſing to ſerve thee, as my ſupreme LORD and MASTER, whilſt I have a being. And, as a proof of my ſincerity, and of my ardent deſire to make good ſuch a profeſſion, I am willing to bind myſelf, by ſetting *my* HAND to all this; that it may be a witneſs *for* or *againſt* me, as I behave myſelf agreeably or diſagreeably to what I now do!"

JOANNA COOK.

In tranſcribing this I find great cauſe of *ſhame* to myſelf, that I have *ſo ill* performed *my* part: but "the blood of JESUS CHRIST cleanſeth from all ſin." — And how gracious, and conſtantly good and faithful hath the LORD been! He hath never failed, once, in admoniſhing, teaching, quickning me; — but though to *me* belong ſhame and confuſion of face, yet do I rejoice that I gave myſelf up to the LORD!

I am not certain, ſhe rejoins, that every thing is here mentioned in the exact order of time. I ſhould have mentioned the texts of *ſcripture* that convinced me it was wrong to read *romances*, &c. Rev. 22. 15. "Whoſoever loveth and maketh a lie

lie ſhall not enter into the new JERUSALEM," was one. — Theſe texts too were much upon my mind; " Separate yourſelves, come out from amongſt them, — touch not the unclean thing and I will be a Father unto you, and ye ſhall be my ſons and daughters, ſaith the Lord Almighty;" —not in rioting and drunkenneſs, &c. &c.— whether ye eat or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the *glory* of GOD."

Beſides theſe texts of ſcripture, I had an awful thought about this time, — " That I was liable to DEATH every moment; and that I ſhould not like to die at an idle viſit, nor in a ball-room, nor at a card-table, nor in a play-houſe." I eaſily left dancing; my relations were not fond of BALLS; and *viſiting* they excuſed me from, as I was more uſefully employed at home: but my *dreſſing* in a manner becoming a woman profeſſing GODLINESS they were very much againſt!"

THUS far we are indebted to her own pen: and, doubtleſs, if ſhe had begun to write upon the ſubject ſooner, or had not been prevented by her growing indiſpoſition, ſhe would, for the information of her friends, eſpecially her affectionate huſband who urged her much to do it, have given us the various changes and events of her life, in their order: but at the ſame time MODESTY and HUMILITY would have prevented

ented her mentioning ſeveral things, hich, for the glory of God, for the com-ort and encouragement of his people, and n juſtice to ſo excellent a character, I ink ought to be made public.

In this ſmall unfiniſhed account Mrs. URNER gives of the *early* part of her life, e ſays, ſhe is not certain that ſhe has entioned every thing in the exact order f time. It appears, from her journals, nd the letters we have received from her arious correſpondents, that the *gay* world ecame, once more, the object of her at-ention: even after ſhe had been under e moſt ſerious convictions of ſin, deſpair-ng of forgiveneſs, and thinking GOD could ot be juſt without ſentencing her to hell; nd had been ſet at liberty from this con-emning power of the Law by a goſpel ermon, and was enabled to cry out "Bleſs e LORD, O my ſoul, who forgiveth all ine iniquities! &c." — And that her at-achment to the faſhionable amuſements of e age was as ſtrong as ever: ſhe being — s I have been told by her moſt intimate iends, the RINGLEADER in all the vain muſements of the Town; going from houſe houſe to get a party for the ball, the card-able, or for hearing read ſome pernicious omance or frothy novel; — and nothing f the kind ſeemed well ordered among her ntimates, unleſs JOEY COOK were preſent.

That

That *pride* and *vanity* had likewiſe the aſcendency in her heart is very diſcoverable: and, from the univerſal eſteem in which ſhe was held by her acquaintance, her company was continually courted; — and from her *complexional* vivacity, good ſenſe, genteel carriage and gay appearance, ſhe conveyed pleaſure wherever ſhe went.

In theſe ſeaſons, PRIDE made her *emulous*, and DISAPPOINTMENT made her *wretched*. She has acknowledged, with the deepeſt abaſement of ſoul,—that till ſhe was converted, ſhe could ſcarcely bear the ſight of any whoſe perſon and dreſs were ſuperior to her own. And it has been obſerved, by ſome who well knew her, that ſhe endeavoured to excel all her acquaintance, — in the gaiety of her cloathing, the elegance of her taſte, the poignancy of her wit, the politeneſs of her addreſs, and the agreeableneſs and vivacity of her converſation.

But, while ſhe was in the full poſſeſſion of the eſteem and admiration of her acquaintance, and taking her fill of time-waſting pleaſures — which are accounted *innocent* becauſe not condemned by the world — CONSCIENCE would not let her enjoy happineſs *within* or ſuffer her to rejoice in iniquity: but on the contrary, conſtrained her to *mourn* and *weep* before the LORD in ſecret! — As may be gathered from a journal written in her twenty-eighth year,

an

an extract from which is here ſubjoined.—

Nov. 1, 1758. "It hath pleaſed the LORD to lay on me the rod of affliction, to viſit me with weakneſs of body; but oh, how *light* the ſtroke, how *gentle* the correction! LORD, thou mighteſt have continued thoſe racking pains I have ſo lately felt — but thou doſt not delight to afflict the children of men! In the midſt of judgment thou remembereſt mercy! O, ſanctify this diſpenſation of thine to me: teach me ſubmiſſion to thy will; humble and melt this proud obdurate heart of mine; draw off my affections from the world, from every thing that hinders communion with thee — and O may I ſay, "ſpeak, LORD, for thy ſervant heareth!"

Methinks I now hear thoſe divine chidings from thee — "O Daughter — for I would ſtill truſt in the ſacred relation — How haſt thou abuſed the mercies of health and eaſe that I have beſtowed on thee! What tributes of praiſe and glory have I received from thee? Haſt thou not, like JESHURUN, waxed fat and kicked? Haſt thou not ſerved my worſt enemies; — let out thine heart, which is *mine* by the ſtrongeſt claims — to the world, the fleſh, and the devil; who, by turns, have enſnared and enſlaved it? O, how is thy beauty ſpoiled by this vile ſervitude! How different

rent art thou *now*, from the day of thy *firſt* ESPOUSALS; when I adorned thee with the robe righteouſneſs, with the jewels of mercy and forgiveneſs of ſin! — But yet, "I will never leave thee, nor forſake thee:" — "The Heavens may depart, and the mountains be removed, but my love ſhall not depart from thee" — Almighty grace ſhall reſcue thee! — Return, O backſliding daughter; I will "heal thy backſlidings; will receive thee graciouſly, and love thee freely!"

About this period of her life ſhe gives an account of ſome journies of pleaſure, for a month or two, that ſhe made to LONDON and BRISTOL. And, by what we ſee of her inward teachings, it appears, ſhe had all the bleſſed doctrines of the Goſpel in her *head*; that they were a ſtay to her ſoul in an hour of danger; that ſhe did, at times, experience the ſweet influences of religion on her *heart*: ſo as to take comfort — in the *unchangeable* LOVE of GOD through CHRIST — in the all-ſufficiency of his blood to atone for her ſins — and the purity of his life to juſtify her perſon, and preſent her faultleſs before his father's glory. But it is evident, from thoſe papers, that ſhe had not duly examined, nor entered into the full meaning of the Apoſtle's aſſertion, when he ſays, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in CHRIST JESUS,

JESUS, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." For though she seemed to be convicted of SIN if she did not begin, go through, and close the LORD'S DAY entirely *in the* SPIRIT; yet she scrupled not to begin the *next day*, go through and end THE WEEK, with walking *after the* FLESH — in vain amusements, private parties of cards and dancing, or in public places of pleasure; such as Tunbridge-wells — White-conduit-house, — Vauxhall &c. &c.

At the same time she sought out and heard, on the Lord's-Days, some of the most lively and faithful GOSPEL-preachers; examining her own heart, and lamenting its departures from GOD, in the most pathetic manner: but did not, as yet, see the duty of carrying the sabbath through THE WEEK, — which is the privilege of believers, — in momentarily asking for a blessing on the *common* actions and employments of life; begging the presence of the King of Kings with us through all; and thus resting in his love and faithfulness continually; for thus she remarks on the first sabbath she spent in LONDON:

"Sunday, July the third;—My thoughts too full of *vanity* and *distraction* for the sacred exercises of the day: and I find *pleasure* a greater enemy to Devotion, than *business*; — which I have been long groaning under!

A deſired diſpenſation from worldly cares is now experienced; but what is the effect of this privilege on my heart? My heart, I find, is ſtill firmly attached to this world: — my AFFECTIONS how groveling! my *thoughts*, *words*, and *actions* are as guilty, as impure as ever! I dreſſed myſelf with too much care; and too great a deſire to be *noticed* in the ſanctuary of my GOD: — Gracious LORD, forgive the impious attempt; fruſtrate the bold deſign, and lay not iniquity to my charge, for thy dear Son's ſake!

This afternoon Mr. Jones read prayers in a remarkably affecting manner; and Mr. M—— preached the ſacred myſteries of the Goſpel, which we are ignorant of till the SPIRIT move on our hearts, as on the waters of old. — Spiritual truths are only ſpiritually diſcerned: — the *natural* man is ignorant of them, and accounts them fooliſhneſs. — He preached the doctrine of REGENERATION, from John the third to the tenth verſe; — proved the neceſſity of being born again; and exhorted all to ſelf-examination, in order to know if this ſaving change had been wrought in their hearts — comforted the experienced BELIEVER, and awfully warned the *bold daring* Offender."

The next day we ſhall find her at a BALL, admiring the Ladies, dreſs, and delighted with her niece's ſuperior ſkill in *dancing*.

And

And after ſpending the whole week in the ſame manner, we find her again on the Lord's-Day at St. Saviour's-church, taking down the Heads of Mr. Jones's diſcourſe, and making theſe truly ſpiritual remarks:

— "Mr. Jones preached and prayed *extempore* like the Diſſenters: — O, may he be a happy means of uniting brethren in one faith! It is not *what* CHURCH but *what* SPIRIT we are of, that is eſſential to the ſalvation of our ſouls! A bigoted and uncharitable ſpirit, is an unchriſtian ſpirit: for CHRIST ſaid — "To love GOD with "all our heart, and mind, and ſtrength; "and our neighbour as ourſelves — are "the commandments on which hang all "the Law and the Prophets!" *That* faith only is good which is productive of good works: — and where-ever I ſee this mark of Goſpel love in profeſſors, of what-ever *denomination* — there I muſt adore the goodneſs of GOD thus remarkably diſplayed in the ſanctification of a ſinner!

We read of the Saints in Glory being choſen out of — *all* NATIONS and LANGUAGES of men; and much more — *different ſorts of* CHRISTIANS. And ſhall I be angry with my neighbour for adopting a different opinion from myſelf? BLESSED JESUS, may I, the unworthieſt of thy creatures, who ſtill ſin with an high hand and an outſtretched arm, and who thus, as it were, graſp at ſin and folly, be reſcued

by Almighty grace from the error of my ways! I fly to thy blood to waſh my polluted nature clean! May my hard heart be ſoftened in the fountain of love; may I dive into its depth, adore its height, till my *whole* SOUL be filled with love! LORD, thou knoweſt my weakneſs, my folly; the ſtrength of corruptions under which I groan; and my temptations from the pleaſures, the riches, and vanities of this bewitching world! O, ſhew it me as a howling wilderneſs beſet with thorns, dens and pits; ſtrip it of its borrowed appearance! O my all-ſufficient SAVIOUR! guard, O guard me by the influences of thy SPIRIT — from the wickedneſs, the treachery of my own *ſinful, deviliſh, corrupt* HEART!

LORD, I would mourn over PRIDE and ENVY at wealth and grandeur; HYPOCRICY — having a form of godlineſs without the power: I would mourn over the ſins of my heart — my THOUGHTS, which are all known to thee: — my waſte of time, my abuſe of talents — my ſmall regard to truth, juſtice, ſobriety! My words and actions — how odious in thy ſight! How formal, how cold my *prayers*: — how often do I *neglect* my attendance at thy footſtool! My knowledge of thee — how ſmall how contracted; nay, I queſtion, at times, whether I have ever been enlightened! My want of *faith*, LORD, I would mourn over with

with tears of blood — which if it were poſſible ſhould burſt from this ungrateful heart, which has added PERJURY * to its other crimes! How often have I *ſworn* to be the LORD's, thy ſealed fountain, thy ſealed garden! But, "Thou art the LORD that paſſeſt by tranſgreſſions;" — nay, that, throw'ſt them behind thy back, and burieſt them in the depth of the ſea:" — Thou art unchangeable in thy love!

The next week we find her entering into the *ſpirit* of the *world* and its vain amuſements with as much eagerneſs and reliſh, as if ſhe had never been convicted of ſin and folly, nor known the joys of religion or the terrors of a guilty conſcience.

But the LORD graciouſly rouzes her again, the next ſabbath, by awakening her from her ſleep, at three in the morning, with the alarm of a dreadful fire, near enough to ſee its raging flames from the door; for thus ſhe remarks: —

— "I went to the door and ſurveyed the awful flames, which ſeemed to approach us in defiance of fire-men and engines. The ſparks, in general, appeared to fly almoſt to the clouds; and each one, if commiſſioned by the Almighty power, was capable of ſpreading the deſolation far and wide. Good God! how weak, how impotent is Man; whoſe deſigns and ſubſtance thou canſt blaſt with one breath of thy noſtrils.

* Breaking her covenant with God.

trils. We, thy wretched ſinful creatures, deſerve thy judgments: but Oh, thou that inhabiteſt Eternity, reſtrain the fury of this raging element, ſtop the progreſs of theſe ſpreading flames, for thy dear SON's ſake — through whom we receive every bleſſing; and to whom, with thyſelf, and BleſſED SPIRIT, be praiſe and glory through the endleſs ages of Eternity!

Oh, what a ſweet ſatisfaction is there in confiding in an ALMIGHTY GOD, in the greateſt danger! — who ſays, "when thou "paſſeſt through the waters, I will be with "thee, and through the rivers, they ſhall "not overflow thee; — when thou paſſeſt "through the fire, thou ſhalt not be burnt, "neither ſhall the flames kindle upon thee:" — that is, thy GOD, in covenant, will remember thee in all thy diſtreſſing circumſtances; and will deliver thee from, or ſupport thee under them!

Oh, what a DIVINE voice was *that* which ſaid, "According to thy faith, ſo be it unto thee!" See — the fire is alleviating — is abating! — The Morning breaks and pours forth her light, and leſſens the horrors of the proſpect: — Several kind neighbours return and aſſure us there is no danger to our Habitation: — My fearful companion begins to recover herſelf at this account: — We ſtayed, talking and liſtening, till after five o'clock; and, no more

ſigns

ſigns of fire appearing, retired again to reſt, praiſing the LORD for his goodneſs!

In the forenoon, heard Mr ——, a diſſenting Miniſter, preach on the privileges of being Children of GOD; a privilege that cometh not by nature nor inheritance; for "as many as are led by the SPIRIT of GOD, they are the Sons of GOD." O BLESSED SPIRIT, be thou my guide my director; take poſſeſſion of my ſoul; purge it of its droſs its filthineſs — of inordinate affection, vain imaginations; purify my heart; change the irregular ſinful inclinations of my ſoul — and enable me by faith to cry — *Abba*, FATHER!

Mr. JONES, the excellent Mr. JONES, edified us in the afternoon with preaching on one of ELISHA's miracles." — But the amuſements of the week ſpoiled all her good impreſſions; as may be ſeen by her complaints on the next and ſome ſucceeding ſabbaths. —

—"July the ſeventeenth — Mr. GREEN obliged us with another diſcourſe on a former text; but my thoughts were too wandering to recollect the particulars of the ſacred ſubject. BLESSED JESUS, when ſhall I be freed from the power, the worſe than Egyptian bondage and ſlavery, of a vain mind: — when ſhall I be brought into the glorious liberty of the Children of GOD! CORRUPTIONS, how deeply are they

rooted! VANITY, how has it fixed its empire in my captive heart — a ſlave to ſin! The world, the fleſh and the devil, have bound it in triple bands; — have enervated and weakened all its capacities to love and ſerve thee; — are continually enticing it with temptations too ſtrong for fleſh — *weak, frail, feeble* FLESH, to reſiſt; — are ſetting up idols of riches, honour, beauty, or ſome other earthly Deity — which I profanely worſhip in oppoſition to thy DIVINE LAW!

Wreſt me, O wreſt me, ALL-POWERFUL REDEEMER, from the jaws of SIN in all its ſhapes and diſguiſes! Set up thy Standard in my ſoul; take poſſeſſion of all its avenues, and diſplay the banner of redeeming love! Drive the curſed fiends of pride, vanity, envy, hypocriſy, lying and deceit, from their ſtong holds! Rule, O glorious REDEEMER, rule and reign in thine own dominions! Haſt thou not purchaſed me with a price — become my ſurety, and ſuffered the puniſhment due to my ſins; — purchaſed the ſanctifying influences of thy SPIRIT for *me*, rebellious ſinner! Open the door of my heart — ſpread its folding leaves, and let the KING of GLORY take poſſeſſion of his own, and rule and reign over me for ever!

Mr. Jones, in the afternoon, made a delightful ſermon on another of ELISHA's miracles: —

iracles: — The miſerable eſtate of the *poor widow* he compared to the *wretched* con-ition of ALL MANKIND by *nature:* — her wo *ſons* were, FLESH and SPIRIT; — the *reditors*, GOD's *juſtice*, and ELISHA a type f JESUS CHRIST. — An excellent ſpiritu-l diſcourſe he made: O may it be profita-le to my ſoul, and to all that heard him! He exhorted to truſt in GOD in the great-eſt *extremities* and *afflictions:* — Here was an eminent example of a widow and her fa-herleſs children being relieved by an inter-poſing PROVIDENCE: — Though *now* we are not to expect *miracles*, yet GOD will accompliſh his promiſes to all that truſt in him: — "*Himſelf*," he ſaid, "was an in-ſtance; — no circumſtances in life could be more miſerable, more *deplorable* than HIS were; yet he was provided for infi-nitely beyond his expectations!" — And *myſelf* am another inſtance: How have *I* experienced the loving-kindneſs of the LORD! — ſhould I withold my teſtimony, how great my *ingratitude!* —

— Sunday the 14th — Dreſs'd in my new gown — my thoughts too much engroſ-ſed on that account; — pride, vanity and a deſire to pleaſe, my reigning vices. Mr. ——, a diſſenting miniſter, preached, in the morning, the reviving doctrine of "Mercy ſhall be built up for ever:" and, in the afternoon, heard the ſame Miniſter

from

from thoſe words of David — " Unleſs thy Law had been my delight I ſhould have periſhed in my trouble."

Coming home, met Miſs Harriſon; — prevailed on her to drink tea with me, and promiſed to go with her to the TABERNACLE: — by the influence of this Lady, had a commodious ſeat in a gallery behind the pulpit. — So vaſt a concourſe of people, in ſo ſmall a ſpot, I never ſaw; and all ſo attentively ſerious — I thought it a happineſs to be admitted into the number! they ſang a hymn with great devotion, and afterwards Mr. WHITEFIELD prayed earneſtly for all eſtates and conditions of men. Indeed, it was an excellent prayer! — but my heart was ſadly out of *tune*; and *jarred* amidſt the heavenly concert of the praiſes and adorations of the Saints!

My prayer was — " O may I catch the ſacred flame — kindle it, dear LORD JESUS, in my ſoul; O, may this be a happy opportunity! " For behold the day cometh," was the text, " that ſhall burn as " an oven, and all the proud, yea all that " do wickedly, ſhall be as ſtubble; and " the day that cometh ſhall burn them up, " ſaith the Lord of hoſts, that it ſhall leave " neither root nor branch: but unto you " that fear my name, ſhall the Sun of " Righteouſneſs ariſe, with healing in his " wings!"

He

He ſhewed who the proud were — the proud in HEART, whether poor or rich: but the proud here meant particularly, are they who will not diſclaim the merit of their own works — that *will not fly to* CHRIST *as their only* HOPE.

He addreſſed the ſinner with great affection: invited him earneſtly to come to CHRIST for ſalvation, and warned him of his danger in the moſt awful and convincing manner. He called upon the *backſliding* chriſtian — O my ſoul, how particularly, how earneſtly, did he call upon *thee* to return to thy firſt love! How juſtly did he call thy preſent ſtate — an ECLIPSE! — that the EARTH was gotten between thee and the SUN of RIGHTEOUSNESS, and prevented the darting of his ſalutary beams into thy ſoul — ſo neceſſary to guide thy corrupt heart! LORD perform the promiſe on which thou haſt cauſed me to hope — "Return, thou backſliding daughter; I will heal thy backſlidings, will receive the graciouſly and love the freely!"

I bleſs GOD for ſome feeble glimmerings of redeeming love darted into my benighted ſoul: O, may it increaſe into a blaze; and may "the SUN of RIGHTEOUSNESS ariſe with healing in his wings!"

Monday the 15th — Heard my Uncle Shrapnell was at the point of death — awful news! — O may it affect my heart — not by

venting a flood of tears, but — may the providence be a *ſanctified* affliction! O may I rely, with greater firmneſs, on the Almighty All-ſufficient fountain, when the ſtreams of creature-comforts are cut off!

In loſing my uncle, I loſe a valuable friend whom I loved with a filial affection — whoſe advice was revered, and inſtructions obeyed, though ever ſo contrary to my own inclinations; as believing He was a much better judge than myſelf. How glaringly ſinful is my conduct! CONSCIENCE, how ſtrong thy convictions! Shall MAN, *erring* MAN, liable like thyſelf to miſtakes, and of like paſſions with thyſelf, — ſhall HE be confided in, obeyed and ſerved from principles of love, and art thou diſtruſtful of the GREAT JEHOVAH? — How large his PROMISES, how ſmall thy *faith*; how great his LOVE, how weak thy *belief*; his KINDNESS unſpeakable, and thy HEART *untouched!* By it thou haſt been holden up from thy birth, and how ungrateful thy RETURNS to this *inexpreſſible love!* —

— Did ever pity ſtoop ſo low,
Dreſs'd in Divinity and blood!
Was ever rebel courted ſo,
With groans of an expiring God!

Again he lives, he ſpreads his hands;
Hands that were nail'd to torturing ſmart!
By theſe dear wounds he ſays, and ſtands
And prays to claſp thee to his heart!

A

A Coach ſtops at the door — my couſin is returned in ſafety! I was afraid to aſk for my uncle, but had the pleaſure of hearing he was ſtill alive, and his heart in heaven — fixed on the promiſes of GOD from eternity to eternity. O the Divine ſupport our Heavenly Phyſician diſpenſes to his afflicted patients! — What abundant reaſon have we, in all circumſtances of life, to fly to and to depend on, the ALL-SUFFICIENT EVER-PRESENT GOD!

Friday the 19th — At night, while my couſin was returning thanks for the mercies of the day, with his family, we were alarmed by a violent ringing at the door. A porter brought the melancholy news of the death of my dear uncle Shrapnell — a loſs which I have long expected. O, may thoſe that are mourners under it, be comforted! — "The LORD *gave*, and the LORD hath *taken away*, and bleſſed be the name of the LORD!"

The next ſabbath ſhe goes to public worſhip twice, but takes no notice of the ſermons; and the day following ſeems filled with vanity on account of ſitting for her picture. The next Sunday her thoughts ſeem wholly taken up with her new mourning — produces not ſo much as a pious reſolution. And the next day, ſhe remarks, ſhe had the pleaſure of ſeeing the Ladies *dance*; is employed all the week in provid-

ing genteel mourning — a rich black ſilk; ordering a ring on the occaſion, and other gew-gaws. And not till Sunday the thirty-firſt did ſhe ſeem to have ſo much as *one* SERIOUS thought to paſs her mind; — then, her uſual ſabbath convictions revived once more, which ſhe expreſſes thus: —

— "Sunday, the thirty-firſt; — Indulged myſelf too much in ſleep; and encouraged waſte of time by dreſſing with too much care. O the ſacrilege I am * weekly guilty of, and of which am as conſtantly repenting — ſtealing from THE ALMIGHTY the ſacred time, He has commanded to be appropriated to his worſhip and ſervice! How light and vain are my firſt thoughts on waking; how difficult is it to draw them from vanity, and fix them on ſuitable ſolemn objects! † How does the world, the creature, engroſs my attention even in the preſence of the KING of KINGS! How do my eyes wander in ſearch of pleaſing objects; of glaring dreſs, faſhions and a thouſand vanities!"

In the afternoon ſhe hears the celebrated Mr. ROMAINE; — his text, Solomon's ſong — "Set me as a ſeal upon thine heart, "as a ſeal upon thine arm:" — She is pleaſed and edified, and cries out in rapture — "O! what an advantage do the people of LONDON enjoy, of having the doctrines of

* She might have ſaid *daily*. † Is it any wonder, when the week had been ſpent in vanity and folly?

of the Goſpel preached faithfully, with zeal and affection! — Bleſſed be GOD that there are Miniſters in the Eſtabliſhed Church, as well as many in the different denominations of Diſſenters, that will not hold their peace for Zion's ſake; that they are not ALL "*blind watchmen, dumb dogs*" — that will not bark to give warning of approaching danger!"

In her thirtieth year, which was in 1762, ſhe writes thus to a friend: — "When the Lord called me out from among the broad-way multitude, to be "ſeparated, and not "to touch the unclean thing, and He "would be a father unto me, and I ſhould "be his daughter," many years ago — I halted, ſhamefully halted, between two opinions! Nay, after I hoped I had ſincerely cloſed in with CHRIST; received him on his own terms, as my Prophet, Prieſt, and King; and had taſted that the LORD is gracious — with humility, the deepeſt humility, I would ſpeak it — I wanted to reconcile GOD and MAMMON; — *to ſerve* GOD, *ſo as not to diſpleaſe* MAN! O impious attempt; what a mercy I was not made a ſimilar example to that of KORAH, DATHAN, and ABIRAM!

And yet, here I am, a monument of mercy! When I took up HESTER's reſolution, "If I periſh I periſh" — and met with a much kinder reception than HES-

TER, for a whole Kingdom would not have ſatisfied me, nor a whole world — No, nothing but *an* ASSURANCE *that* CHRIST *was mine*; then I ſaid, I would have no more to do with the accurſed thing — that I would hold my integrity, and that none of theſe things ſhould move me — I, for ſome time, "ſat under his ſhadow with great delight, and his fruit was ſweet to my taſte!" — But Oh, what DARKNESS, what *thick* DARKNESS have I groped in, ſince, at times! Such ſinks of corruption in my heart, and ſuch ſinfulneſs in my beſt duties, that I thought I had but deceived myſelf; and that no ſaving change had been wrought in me! — I feared offending the *creature* — on which my affections were *immoderately* fixed!" —

Hence we may gather that ſhe was a grievous backſlider in heart, after ſhe had been enlightened in the way of ſalvation by Jeſus Chriſt, and had "taſted that the LORD *is* gracious." By paying too much attention to *the world*, and too little to the convictions of her own CONSCIENCE; for ſeveral years, ſhe was "*unſtable as water*:" — ſometimes ſhe appeared to be taught of the Spirit of GOD, and to hearken to his word; at other times ſhe grieved him, and, by drinking into the ſpirit of *the world*, quenched his motions.

For

For ſeveral years, *ten* at leaſt, ſhe attended to the outward exerciſes of religion conſtantly, on the LORD'S-DAY; and frequently, on the WEEK-DAYS: and while at Church, if her eye wandered to obſerve other people's dreſs; a liberty ſhe was apt to take, as may be ſeen by her journal; ſhe would ſhut them immediately, that her mind might be entirely abſtracted from earthly objects, and devoted to GOD. And being convinced, that after prayer and the word preached, ſhe ought not to hazard the loſs of the good impreſſions ſhe received by unneceſſary ſalutations, and idle converſation, in her way home; ſhe made it a rule to quit the Church immediately after ſervice, and walk home by herſelf.

THUS ſhe repeatedly *reſolved* to break with *the world*, and as repeatedly *broke* her reſolutions: for ſtill the fear and love of the creature prevailed, till at laſt ſhe was brought, a *ſecond* time, into the depths of deſpair. Her convictions of ſin became *ſo great*, and her diſtreſs thereupon *ſo exquiſite* that, for *two years*, ſhe was under continual terror: and frequently imagined, as ſhe walked the ſtreets in her *gay* attire, that the earth would open and ſwallow her up; and while in this agony of mind, ſhe ſcarce refrained from weeping two Hours together! She thought ſhe had ſinned beyond forgiveneſs;

forgiveneſs; and that "it was impoſſible," according to ſcripture, Heb. 6. 4—8 that ſhe ſhould be "renewed again unto repentance" — becauſe ſhe had "crucified the Son of God afreſh, and put him to an open ſhame" — by her worldly conformity, — "after ſhe had been enlightened in the "knowledge of the truth, had taſted of the "heavenly gift, been made a partaker of "the HOLY GHOST; and had taſted of the "good word of GOD, and the powers of "the world to come." And, from the keeneſt anguiſh of ſoul, ſhe could ſay —

—"All deaths, all tortures in one pang combin'd,
Are little to the torments of the *mind*!"

As the work of grace gained ground in her heart, *carnal* company and converſation became more and more diſagreeable to her: ſhe therefore turned from thoſe who formerly afforded her pleaſure, to aſſociate with the moſt *ſpiritual* people ſhe could meet with, who were, for the moſt part, *poor*. The only one of her own rank in life, ſhe could at preſent find conſolation in converſing with, was, a gentlewoman with whom ſhe had often diſputed in favour of balls, cards, plays and other amuſements ſhe uſed to call *innocent*; and by whoſe arguments ſhe was always foiled.

Had ſhe yielded to the earlieſt convictions ſhe received in thoſe diſputes, it would have prevented much ſorrow: but the fear of

f man, and love of the praiſe of men, and er perſonal attachments, were ſo ſtrong; hat it was with the utmoſt difficulty ſhe ould deny herſelf in, and make a neceſſary acrifice of, thoſe particulars. But the LORD, in love to her ſoul, would not permit her to poſſeſs peace in any of her former connections: — the more ſhe ſought o pleaſe the *creature*, the more did the diſreſs of her *ſoul* increaſe.

She attended the miniſtry of the word with profeſſors of *different* denominations: but ſhe could not find the conſolations ſhe wanted in any place of worſhip to which ſhe went. Though ſhe ſometimes heard miniſters whoſe doctrines ſuited caſes like her's, yet ſhe received no encouragement.

Going one day into the houſe of one of her brother's ſheermen, ſhe found the good man employing his *meal-hour* in teaching one of his children to read the BIBLE; while he chewed the food to feed the youngeſt, who was ſitting on his knee — his wife being at hand, ſick and helpleſs. Surely, thought ſhe, this man is greater than that Emperor, who ſaid — He had "*loſt* a day if it were not *well-ſpent!*" She enquired of him how he was enabled to fill up time ſo piouſly and profitably; and obtained much edification and pleaſure by his reaſonable and ſcriptural diſcourſe.

She

She took occaſion to converſe with him again; and by him was introduced to a Society of poor people, who met at each other's houſes, Sunday-mornings, to read and pray together. This was the company in whom her ſoul *now* delighted, and for whom ſhe chearfully parted with her gay acquaintance; at the ſame time bearing teſtimony againſt their vain amuſements, as tending only to waſte time and diſhonour GOD.

We need not wonder to hear, by this time, that the ſingularity of her converſation and conduct gave great offence; and it is eaſy to gueſs — WHO were offended by it. It ſhould not be matter of ſurprize to find her moſt *intimate friends*, and even thoſe who made ſome claim to the diſcoveries and enjoyments of RELIGION, tempted to diſapprove her aſſociating ſo much with the religious *poor* — this was the caſe. By ſuch perſons ſhe was treated with coolneſs, reſerve and neglect; the reverſe of former kindneſs and affection — without the leaſt reaſon being aſſigned for ſuch change of behaviour.

To a perſon of her SENSIBILITY, the *abatement*, much more the *alienation* — of the AFFECTION of friends, muſt be peculiarly afflicting! — She felt it ſo: nor was ſhe, at the ſame time, without ſuch *inward conflicts* as are common to every ſtage of the chriſtian

hriſtian progreſs. Recollecting the exer-ſes of this period of her life, in order to agnify the grace of GOD in her *deliverance* ut of her complicated *diſtreſſes*, ſhe writes us to a friend in the year 1762: —

— "What am I, that I ſhould be honour-d with the prayers and fellowſhip of the eople of GOD. of different denominations — that I, unworthy I, ſhould be favoured ith dear Miſs B—n's correſpondence! O ray, and praiſe for me, my much valued riend! A few months ago I was in the epths of miſery: my LORD had withdrawn imſelf, and the whole creation could not atisfy me — IT was all *uncomfortable*, and was all *gloomy*; — "my STROKE was hea-ier than my *groaning!*"

I went from one houſe of GOD to another — it was the winter before laſt when I was t BRISTOL — I went to the TABERNACLE — betook myſelf to a private corner, and eard dear Mr. ADAMS preach from Iſaiah 4. 17. — I was the *poor* and *needy* at that ime, and the promiſe has been remarkably ulfilled to me: for beſides mourning for n abſent God, — a *boſom* friend, a RELI-GIOUS friend, with whom there had been he greateſt *intimacy*, grew ſurprizingly *cool* o me, without aſſigning any reaſon for it; nd on my requeſting one, I received a very *unkind* anſwer.

I

I thought ſhe ſaw ſomething in me too bad to be forgiven, and ſo would not tell me of it; that my pretences to religion were all HYPOCRISY, or ſo dear and good a creature could not treat me in ſuch manner; it muſt be juſt in *her* I thought — I could not think *ſhe* acted wrong; — ſo much was I wrapt up in the creature! But every *ſtream* was cut off, to drive me to the FOUNTAIN: and now the ſtreams run again; and there is ſo much delightful ſweetneſs communicated from the Fountain, that it is indeed pleaſant: but it is the FOUNTAIN I would abide in — *there*, is every thing to *ſatisfy*, but not to *ſatiate*."

How wiſely the LORD orders all events to bring about his own purpoſes, and his people's good, concurring circumſtances will prove. At the time our dear friend refers to, in the above quoted letter, ſhe was ſuffering from many quarters for conſcience ſake. She was under much dejection of ſpirit previouſly to her hearing Mr. Adam's preach at the TABERNACLE: and it is more than probable ſhe would not have thought of going thither, if the perſon at whoſe houſe ſhe was on a viſit, had not propoſed her accompanying him to that place; which propoſal he made merely to paſs away time.

The

The TABERNACLE was full. She much wiſhed for a ſeat; and, perhaps, imagined her *genteel* appearance would induce ſome perſon to offer her one. But, being unnoticed, the enemy of her peace availed himſelf of it, to inject the ſoreſt ſuggeſtions into her mind. She thought the judgments of GOD had overtaken her in that ſtrange place: that the people diſcovered her iniquities: and deemed her unworthy a ſeat among them.*

At laſt, overwhelmed with grief, ſhe retreated to an obſcure corner and wept immoderately; but, in the midſt of her diſtreſs, the LORD gave her the hearing ear, and made the Word a *bleſſing* to her ſoul. The deſcription of her caſe was ſo juſtly given by the Preacher, and the encouragement to perſons in her ſituation ſo great, that ſhe was convinced it was a doctrine ſuited to her: and obſerved it ſo conſonant with the SCRIPTURES that ſhe was ſatisfied it came from GOD.

She left the place, determined to attend the preaching of the word *there*, while ſhe continued at BRISTOL. She noticed the publication for preaching from the pulpit — a common practice among the Methodiſts, — and that ſhe might find the way to the TABERNACLE the next time by herſelf,

F ſhe

* This ſhould be a caution to people in the Houſe of GOD to make ROOM for *ſtrangers*.

ſhe obſerved every thing that might ſerve as a way-mark in her return.

With a kind of impatience ſhe waited for, and with pleaſure ſhe embraced, the enſuing opportunity: when ſhe heard the ſame Miniſter preach on the CHRISTIAN ARMOUR, from Epheſians vi. 13—20—The SPIRIT of GOD then alſo witneſſed with her ſpirit, that ſhe was happily poſſeſſed of the whole of it.

DISTRESS, now gave way to *holy joy*; and a "Hope that maketh not aſhamed" took place of *ſlaviſh fear*. The gloom, that had ſo long depreſſed her ſpirits, diſperſed, as the morning miſts before the Sun. Her priſon doors were opened, her bands looſed; and her ſoul, once more, was delivered from the condemnation of the Law, and the terrors of Hell.

She diligently attended all the means of grace, during the time of her reſidence in BRISTOL: and felt ſuch love to, and union with, the miniſters and people at the TABERNACLE, that it was with difficulty ſhe parted with them, when ſhe returned to TROWBRIDGE.

She received another invitation to BRISTOL the following winter, which ſhe gladly accepted. While on this viſit, ſhe was providentially introduced into the company of ſeveral reſpectable perſons belonging to

Mr.

Mr. WHITFIELD's and Mr. WESLEY's Societies.

In the interim between the two viſits ſhe had written a religious Letter, which was communicated to a friend in diſtreſs, with a view to her conſolation. It paſſed through my hands, and among others, it was read by Miſs Eliz. J——n; who, ſeeing it ſigned JOANNA COOK, and recollecting that ſhe had Relations of that name at TROWBRIDGE, deſired Miſs B——n to give her an opportunity of an interview with her when ſhe came to BRISTOL again.

Miſs COOK had alſo heard much of a couſin Eliz. J——n at BRISTOL, who had been enabled, very ſingularly, to forego her worldly intereſt for the ſake of a good conſcience; and, though her birth and connections entitled her to a *large fortune*, was content with a FAMILY-BIBLE for her portion, when ſhe offended her friends by commencing a deſpiſed METHODIST. Our deceaſed friend was now therefore very deſirous of ſeeing her couſin; for which purpoſe ſhe attended an exerciſe of prayer among Mr. WESLEY's people, expecting ſhe ſhould have an opportunity of an interview with her at the place where it was carried on.

The firſt perſon who engaged in prayer ſeemed to anſwer the deſcription of her RELATIVE by the excellency of her gift;

but it proved to be Miſs B——n, whoſe perſon, till now, ſhe was a ſtranger to. From this time, however, they knew each other intimately: and by this pattern of piety, and example of good works, ſhe was introduced to her truly *amiable* and *devout* Relation; — with whom ſhe lived in the moſt ſacred *friendſhip* and ſtrongeſt *affection*, to the day of her death.

By this firſt interview with Miſs E. J—n our new convert was amazingly diſappointed. She had formed the idea of a tall, ſtately, reſerved perſon, in a diſtinguiſhed dreſs, taking the lead of a Society with a countenance that would excite religious diſtance and awe: whereas, contrary to this idea, Miſs E. J——n appeared the moſt *eaſy* of acceſs, the moſt *humble* in her mien, *neat* in her perſon, *plain* in her dreſs — and in ALL things an imitator of HIM who was "*meek and lowly* in heart."

This convinced her that the CHRISTIAN muſt be meaſured by the SOUL; *that* being as Dr. WATTS beautifully expreſſes it — "*the ſtature of the* MAN." And herein ſhe diſcovered thoſe DIVINE *graces*, which are infinitely ſuperior to the embelliſhments, ſhe conceived to have been the *exterior* diſtinction.

If Miſs E. J——n diſappointed Miſs COOK's expectation in *one* inſtance, ſhe more than exceeded it in *another*. Her pious

pious and ſcriptural converſation cannot well be conceived. Her *prudence* towards her newly-converted Relation, was equal to her *kindneſs*. She did not check the tide of holy joy that now flowed in our friend by entering into religious *diſputes*, and ſetting up Mr. WESLEY againſt Mr. WHITFIELD; nor did ſhe give her books of *controverſy*: but kindly put ſome of Mr. WHITFIELD's writings into her hands, in hopes, by their means, of eſtabliſhing her in the faith that is in CHRIST JESUS.

How worthy are ſuch ſacred friends of imitation! *Each*, diſcovering in the *other* the reality of divine GRACE; *neither*, preſumed to *foreſtal* the HOLY SPIRIT in his work; or to foſter the falſe zeal and acrimonious ſpirit of a *party* in the ſtead of it: — but mutually agreeing in chriſtian experience, and living in the ſpirit of *love*, they followed after the things which make for peace; and things whereby one may edify another.

In this they cordially agreed: — to receive CHRIST as their wiſdom, righteouſneſs, ſanctification, and redemption; and to ſtrive together for the faith of the goſpel. — Were their example univerſally followed, the CHURCH of CHRIST would enjoy more *peace*, the goſpel be ſubject to leſs *reproach*, and GOD would gain more *Glory*.

By the means of Miſs E. J——n, and Miſs B——n, Miſs COOK had now free admittance into Mr. WESLEY's and Mr. WHITFIELD's Societies; and was enabled to ſpeak *boldly* for the glory of GOD and concerning the work of Grace, wherever ſhe went, as circumſtances rendered it neceſſary: and not only opened her mouth boldly to ſpeak forth the praiſes of GOD; but ſhe devoted herſelf, in a great meaſure, to the ſervice of his poor people. She employed herſelf, ſometimes, in making linen for poor Miniſters, notwithſtanding ſhe thereby ſubjected herſelf to reflection: — and was ſo ready to aſſiſt the poor, by every poſſible means, that ſhe would even *beg* from door to door for them, in caſes of emergency.

Hitherto ſhe had ſupported a FASHIONABLE appearance, though not without many ſcruples of conſcience; ſuppoſing, that by this only remaining inſtance of conformity to the world, ſhe might ſoften the minds of her intimates, and the better prepoſſeſs them in favor of religion.* The light ſhe obtained into 1 John ii. 15, 16 — convinced her, that, in this inſtance of her conduct, ſhe was doing *evil* that *good* might come: and a little incident fell out, which tended to confirm in her a reſolution to alter the mode of her *dreſs*.

Going

* A falſe reaſon frequently given by DRESSY profeſſors of the Goſpel.

Going to dine with a newly-awakened clergyman at her couſin J——'s, with a deſign to talk over a little religious *experience*, and encourage him in the good ways of GOD; the wind blew off her head-dreſs, and ſo diſhevelled her hair, that ſhe was obliged to detain the table a conſiderable time while ſhe adjuſted it. Her friend replied to her *apology* with a gentle rebuke, adding — "This *faſhionable head* will ſoon *come down!*" This remark was quickly verified; — Miſs Cook being now perfectly convinced, that *ſuch a dreſs* was unbecoming a perſon who wiſhed to be a follower of CHRIST, and an example of *Godlineſs* to others.

Some time before this ſhe had been diſpoſed to part with many of her Ornaments, by the influence that a ſermon preached by Mr. KINGDON, a Baptiſt miniſter of Froom, from Iſaiah iii. 16—26, had upon her. She felt the truth of his application ſo powerfully, that ſhe ſtripped herſelf of her *rings*, and *ear-rings*, as ſhe ſat in the pew. The conviction of the ſinfulneſs of outward adorning continuing to afflict; ſhe under a more than ordinary impreſſion, pulled off her *ruffles* as ſhe paſſed the ſtreets of BRISTOL, determining never to wear them again; which reſolution ſhe kept to the day of her death.

She

She uſed to ſay to her religious friends, who, in excuſe for their dreſs, objected againſt the *ſingularity* of *that* ſhe wore — that, Believers in JESUS ſhould be as much aſhamed of conformity to the world in their *dreſs*, as their *amuſements*; — and that, being called to fight againſt the world, the fleſh, and the devil, there is an abſurdity in fighting againſt them — *under their own* COLOURS!"

Her tranſition from a very *gay* to a very *plain* appearance, it may be ſuppoſed, occaſioned ſome converſation and diſpute; eſpecially, as ſhe was not backward to vindicate her *plain* appearance, when it met with objections, and to enforce the propriety of it upon her *cenſurers*. In conſequence of this, ſhe was led to write the following lines on the *vanity* of DRESS in the profeſſors of RELIGION: —

"Oh PRINCE of *Pilgrims*, hear a pilgrim's pray'r,
Whoſe only hope and truſt is in *thy* care!
Obedient to thy call, my ſoul would run
On *any* errand, and *no* danger ſhun.
At thy command I trace the narrow way;
O lead me, Saviour, or I ſoon ſhall ſtray!
Grant wiſdom, power, humility and love,
All heavenly power thou giveſt from above!
Man is thy tool, thy inſtrument, thy clay;
O faſhion, form, and make me ſtill obey
Thy Spirit's teaching, and thy written word:
Touch, ſtrengthen, help me, O my deareſt Lord!
Thou know'ſt my heart, my inmoſt ſoul's deſire,
Thou know'ſt my aim, thou didſt the aim inſpire

To

o follow thee — however SCORN'D by men,
udg'd, cenſur'd, mock'd, thought *ſingular* and *vain*.
Thine own dear people, who thy mind ſhould have,
horn of thy ſtrength by being worldly brave,
rom touching, handling, now *approve* and *like*;
nd hate the friend who at their follies ſtrike.
hey plead for BAAL—"Religion's *in the* HEART"
hey cry; nor from their IDOLS will they part,
You're too *ſevere*, too *ſtrict*; *we* ſee no HARM;
To be like OTHERS need not ſo alarm:
I dreſs but *little*—OTHERS dreſs much more,
There's *ſuch a* ONE—out-does me I am ſure!
What you can ſee in *me*, I do not know,
My things they *muſt be* MADE—*they* MAKE them *ſo.*"

With aching heart I cry, "My ſiſter hear
Vhat's written in the WORD; how read'ſt thou *there?*
et Zion's DAUGHTERS, Zion's KING obey,
heir hearts be ſubject to his HOLY ſway!
ll ſcripture for inſtruction ſure is given;
o *needleſs* word was ever ſent from heaven!
eter and Paul joint teſtimony give,
ow women ſhould behave, and DRESS and live.
fter converſion, when to churches join'd
ow ſweet, how lovely 'tis to join in mind!
Valk by *one* rule, follow *one* bleſſed guide;
ints then with ſaints how ſweet to be allied!
uch was the church in its PRIMEVAL ſtate,
ut Oh, how fallen are we all *of late!*
et are thoſe curs'd that ſhall diminiſh ought
f ſacred writ;—plagues are pronounc'd their lot!
Come HOLY SPIRIT, breath on our dry bones;
hildren to praiſe thee thou canſt raiſe from ſtones!
Vho's on the LORD's ſide?—Who?—come lend your hand,
eform the church and ſave a ſinking land!

Cry

Cry to your GOD, ye praying ſouls, ſtill cry;
Beſeech your brethren, every method try!
I catch the ſpirit, ſympathize and know
What 'tis to mourn and weep for Zion's woe!"

When our dear friend could not prevail on perſons whom ſhe laboured to convince of the ſinfulneſs of *outward* ADORNING, by the ſofteſt perſuaſions, the moſt rational and ſcriptural arguments, and the moſt apt ſimilies; ſhe would fetch a deep ſigh, and ſay, with a countenance expreſſive of the deepeſt concern — "What *can* be done with theſe wilfully blind people; whom no arguments can convince of the abſurdity of conforming to the expenſive and changeable *faſhions* of the WORLD, while they profeſs to be called out of the *ſpirit* of the world! How ſtrange is it, that people ſo tenacious of the DOCTRINES of the Goſpel, that they will ſcarcely allow *ſalvation* to thoſe who have not the ſame *doctrinal* views with themſelves, ſhould nevertheleſs, be ſo erroneous in their *practice*; as if the Word of God did not require a practical ſubmiſſion to its RULES, as well as the aſſent of the judgment to its DOCTRINES!"

She ſo truly loved the people of GOD, and was ſo tenacious of the DIVINE Honor, that ſhe could no more ſuffer ſin upon her acquaintance to go *unreproved*; than ſhe could ſee the ſymptoms of a mortification coming on their fleſh, without reminding them

em of their danger, and recommending
them to call in proper help.

Since her deceaſe a Miniſter has remark-
d, that " He was never in her company
without being benefited by it; — either
ſhe convicted of ſin, or inſtructed in
righteouſneſs; encouraged in the path
of duty, or comforted him under afflic-
tion." She knew both how to wound and
ow to heal; but never *ſlightly* healed the
ounds *ſin* had made. She had a happy
iſcernment, and ſeldom miſapplied re-
roof or conſolation; and ſeveral clergy-
en have made the ſame confeſſion.

FULL-FRAUGHT with the bleſſings of the
oſpel of peace, and richly fed in every
hriſtian Society among whom the Truth
as preached, ſhe finiſhes her ſecond viſit
t BRISTOL; and returns to TROWBRIDGE,
tell her kindred and chriſtian friends,
ow great things the LORD had done for
er ſoul: — At her return ſhe writes thus
Miſs B——n —

— " It was with great reluctance I left
he miniſters and people the time before;
nd ſo it was the laſt time I left BRISTOL:
ut the ſweet promiſes with which I was
iſmiſſed, cheared and ſupported me.
Mr. WHITFIELD's text, in the morning,
as, " I will pray the Father, and he ſhall
give you another comforter, that he may
abide with you for ever." Mr. ROQUET,
the

the ſame day, at WERBURGH's Church, preached from — "I will not leave you comfortleſs, I will come to you." — The frame ſhe poſſeſſed on her return may be conceived of by the ſame Letter:

— "My fellow-travellers, ſaid ſhe, alluding to the paſſengers in the ſtage-coach, were mighty *chatty* ſort of people; but you cannot think how *mute* they were all ſtruck on my talking of RELIGION; except one gentleman, who had the COURAGE to confeſs before half a dozen of us — "that he "*read the* BIBLE; — that the bleſſed truths "contained in it, he thought concerned "every one; — that all who had ears to "hear were called upon; — and that the "CHRISTIAN, whatever the world ſaid of "him, he believed, was happy in every "ſituation, in every circumſtance." — This was MUSIC to my ears, ſaid ſhe, and I expatiated, largely expatiated, as my little knowledge and weak abilities would admit.

We know, my dear friend, what it is that makes the weak as David, and David as Goliah. Glory, Glory be to GOD, who by his grace thus ſtrengthens us poor, feeble, helpleſs worms! — who overcomes the rebel's heart with LOVE, and then it longs to be obedient to every *command* — to be in the conſtant diſcharge of every DUTY. O that I could love the dear REDEEMER more

more — the purchaſer of my every bleſ-ing!"

Thus filled with *love* under a ſenſe of what the SAVIOUR had done for her ſoul, ſhe longed to be doing ſomething for him in return; and dreaded, above all things, to diſgrace his cauſe by idleneſs and luke-warmneſs; for thus ſhe goes on in the ſame Letter —

— "Oh that I could do ſomething for GOD! — for his cauſe and intereſt in the world; — for ſinners, poor thoughtleſs ſinners; — for my dear relations; — that they might taſte, with us, that "the LORD is gracious!" I long for company! — join me, my dear Miſs B——n, in praying that all our acquaintance, all we know, may know CHRIST JESUS, and Him CRUCI-FIED — whom to know is life eternal; and that we may — myſelf in particular — ne-ver be left to *ourſelves*; leſt we become a ſtumbling-block to others, and cauſe an ill report to be brought on the *good old* way!"

As ſoon as ſhe reached home, ſhe ſur-prized every one with the warmth of her zeal and amazing courage, in recommend-ing RELIGION in all companies; ventur-ing to write Letters of reproof, even to religious and learned Miniſters, if ſhe ſaw them give into any amuſements unbecom-ing the ſacred character; as the following letter teſtifies: —

" Dear Mr.——,

Can you bear with me — a poor, weak, mean creature as I am — unworthy to waſh the feet of my LORD's ſervants? — but I muſt be faithful! Dear Sir, I am offended, and grieved, and mourn, when ever you are of the parties of pleaſure amongſt us! — Have you *ſo* learned CHRIST? Is it bringing *glory* to GOD to be preſent at them? Unawakened, unenlightened ſouls ſee no harm in theſe things; — *they* call them innocent uſeful recreations! — Dear creatures, we muſt *pray* for them; nay, REPROVE and ADMONISH as we have opportunity; though it is the LORD only can open the eyes of the blind! But the Goſpel-glaſs repreſents it to us in quite another light: — St. Paul, in his epiſtles, gives it very different names! And the *Miniſters* of the LORD are to exhort young people to be *ſober-minded*, and to flee youthful luſts!

As I remember, we read of but *one* DANCING Aſſembly in the APOSTLES days; — and *that* was ſo fatal to the Church, it ſhould deter the followers of CHRIST from encouraging them. HEROD ſeemed to be under convictions before; but that joyous merry-meeting ended in a melancholy manner. And now, even in our days, if the ſervants of GOD are not doomed to an ignominious death by amuſements, yet it brings ſpiritual deadneſs into their ſouls: — and

if

if we are, in any meaſure, made of one ſpirit with the LORD of heaven and earth — can we take pleaſure in theſe things? — We cannot "run with them into the ſame exceſs of riot! — The love of CHRIST will conſtrain us to obedience!"

A walking with GOD, and in the cuſtoms of *this world*, are inconſiſtent. We are called to "ſeparate and to come out from amongſt them" — not to hanker after "the garlicks of Egypt" — not to "linger in Sodom!" The LORD hath manna to rain down on us: — O that he would give us ſpiritual appetites for this angel's food! The world has no food to beſtow upon us; they have not even TEMPORAL bleſſings to beſtow! Our GOD is a GOD of *providence* as well as *grace* — *can* give, and glory be to his name, *doth* give — even to the unworthieſt of his creatures — the hundred-fold bleſſing in this life, as well as the precious promiſes of life everlaſting! Happy, thrice-happy am I, to be reproached for CHRIST's ſake; for *ſingularity* in his cauſe, for adhering to his commands!

Dear Sir, write me a few lines; give me your opinion: Should believers in a CRUCIFIED SAVIOUR be frequenters — though it be only as ſpectators — of card-tables, balls, horſe-races? &c. &c. Should CHRISTIANS meet and part, *again* and

again, without mentioning the *Name* of CHRIST?

There may, I think, be the *form* of godlineſs without the *power*; but ſurely, where there *is* the *power*, it does not open a door for LICENTIOUSNESS! We *cannot* ſin that grace may abound: — we *muſt* be diſcharging every duty, though with much weakneſs and imperfection!

It is the grief of my ſoul that I live no more to the *glory* of GOD! My dear friend, *pray* for me! — Let me have the bleſſing of *your* EXAMPLE! O that I could love the LORD and ſerve him better! But "the blood of JESUS CHRIST cleanſeth from all ſin; — "being juſtified by faith, we have peace with GOD, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt!" — I hope and truſt you will receive this in the ſpirit of love and meekneſs!

I *write*, becauſe I had not courage to *ſpeak*. I truſt, my only view is — the Glory of GOD! "Send, LORD, by whom thou wilt ſend!" Glory be to *thee*, but to *me* belong ſhame and confuſion of face! I beg, dear Sir, you will always be thus faithful to *me*, and may the beſt of bleſſings be with you — is the prayer of

your ſincere friend,

JOANNA COOK."

I ſubjoin a Letter written ſome years after, in the ſame ſpirit, to another Miniſter:

— "Rev.

" Rev. Sir,

Actuated by the pureſt motives, I take the liberty to write to you; as there does not appear the leaſt proſpect of converſing with you.

For many years my mind has been much pained at the profanation of the Lord's Day by buſineſs or pleaſure — the DIVINE command being ſo ſtrict to keep it Holy! It appears to me one of the crying ſins of the nation, for which, perhaps, the preſent long-continued war is a ſcourge; for it is very viſible we are not yet a reformed people. Yeſterday morning, as I went to viſit a ſick friend, I ſaw a cloth or clothes upon *your* RACK; and ſaid to a perſon near me — " Sure this is not Mr. W—'s?" They ſaid " Yes, it was — and you made a *practice* of it:" — And, to be ſure, it appeared to me too likely to be true: becauſe, at this time of the year, the drying is ſo good, and almoſt continual, that there did not appear ſuch a neceſſity, as, on *ſome* occaſions, might be urged.

I intreat you, Sir, by the moſt *ſacred* motives, never to ſuffer ſuch a cuſtom to be continued! And if you will be ſo kind as to pardon my freedom, and not be offended with me, I ſhould be very happy. And Oh! may all our ſins and numerous offences be waſhed away in that *ſacred* FOUNTAIN — the *blood* of JESUS CHRIST!

And may His RIGHTEOUSNESS be imputed, that we may be compleat in Him — united to him here by *living* FAITH, and then be in glory with him to all Eternity! This, Sir, is the ſincere deſire of the

unworthy writer,

JOANNA TURNER."

The propriety of her conduct began now to be called in queſtion; as ſhe ſcrupled not to walk to BRADFORD or elſewhere, where the Goſpel was preached in the Eſtabliſhment, in company with *poor* people; whom, for CHRIST's ſake, ſhe counted the *excellent* of the earth, and in whom was all her delight.

Several charges were alſo brought againſt her: — ſuch as, hearing *illiterate* preachers; and *that* — at *unſeaſonable* times; — and that while ſhe was very fond of and very intimate with *ſtrangers*, whether poor or rich, when they were of the ſame way of thinking with herſelf; — ſhe neglected her *relations*.

It is true, ſhe took all opportunities to hear the goſpel preached: — ſhe was a perſon of leiſure, and found it to be both her duty and privilege, in the uſe of the means of grace, to "wait upon GOD continually." It is equally true, that it was not an object with her whether the preacher were *learned* or *illiterate*; if he preached CHRIST JESUS

THE

THE LORD, and were made a bleſſing to her ſoul.

The ſuſpicion of her *neglecting* her RELATIONS was founded on miſtake. She *tenderly* LOVED them; and eſteemed many of them as *real* CHRISTIANS. In alluſion to the above mentioned charge, ſhe ſays, in a letter to a friend, — "I love the people of GOD, eſteem them the excellent of the earth, and can ſay, "In *them* is all my delight!" but my affection for my RELATIONS does not in the leaſt *abate* — it *increaſes*. I would give honor to whom honor is due. Many of them are old profeſſors, and have much of the CHRISTIAN temper and diſpoſition; and yet blame me for ſingularity and preciſeneſs."

However painful ſhe felt it to lie under cenſure, ſhe determined to act according to the dictates of conſcience, and do what ſhe could towards promoting the cauſe of GOD among others. With a view to this ſhe accompanied her poor brethren, not only to diſtant places to hear the goſpel in the Eſtabliſhment, on a ſabbath-day; but ſhe prevailed on them to meet together *once or twice a*-WEEK for ſocial worſhip — which they readily agreed to. — The following Letter gives an account of this SOCIETY, which from that time met together every THURSDAY, for hearing ſermons read or preached: — before *that*, they only met from

from houſe to houſe for reading and prayer, on LORD'S-DAY mornings. —

— " O my dear, what mercies have I to thank GOD for! Help me to praiſe the LORD, and to ſpeak good of his name! Young men and maidens, old men and children, praiſe, praiſe, praiſe the LORD! O for a warmer heart to ſpeak his praiſe: — I want to be all LOVE and GRATITUDE!

You cannot think, my dear, what a ſweet SOCIETY of twenty or more — MEMBERS *of the* CHURCH OF ENGLAND — men and women; — *ſome*, HUSBANDS *and their* WIVES — met in a little room, laſt THURSDAY, at ſeven o'clock in the evening! An humble ſerious man, and, I believe, a *ſincere* CHRISTIAN, — read a pſalm, with the firſt chapter of CANTICLES, and the fourth of the firſt of JOHN, and prayed with us; then read a ſermon of Mr. ROMAINE's, ſang a hymn and concluded with prayer.

It was almoſt three quarters after eight when we ſeparated; with a promiſe of continuing it, if the LORD permit, WEEKLY. We parted *ſo full of* LOVE! — O my friend, it was a *ſweet* ſeaſon! It is the LORD's doing; let us rejoice! He hath granted me the deſire of my heart, and not with-holden the requeſt of my lips!

It was on my mind, a good while ago, to propoſe ſuch a SOCIETY. I mentioned it to you, I believe, in my laſt Letter, that

I was converſing with a good old veteran miniſter, a ſtranger, who was detained at a relation's of mine by illneſs, and whom I viſited. Inquiring into the ſtate of religion among us, he ſaid, "he thought no *outward* means were ſo helpful to promote *vital* religion, as thoſe ſocial meetings."

The next Lord's-day, a miniſter I heard preach, mentioned it as one of the mercies our town enjoyed and ſhould bleſs the LORD for, that we have opportunity to meet on the *week days*, and converſe on the things of GOD. The next night I propoſed it to a friend who lives in a pretty neat manner: — it pleaſed GOD to open his *heart* to it, and he opened his *houſe*.

Pray with me, my friend, that the LORD may reward and bleſs him with temporal and ſpiritual bleſſings; — "They ſhall *proſper* that love JERUSALEM!" And is it not an inſtance of love in him to the dear REDEEMER, — to his cauſe and people — thus to open his Houſe and his Heart to them? — O! let us bleſs GOD for this inſtance of love, courage, and holy zeal; and may many, very many, be quickened by it!

It is ſurpaſſing wonder, my dear friend — THE GOODNESS OF GOD; — that there ſhould not be the leaſt difficulty, the leaſt oppoſition or hinderance: — it is the LORD's doing, it is marvellous in our eyes! And, could you think it, with *ſhame* I ſpeak it, whilſt

whilſt we were ſinging of REDEEMING love, a baſe, unbelieving, cowardly thought aroſe in my mind — "If a mob ſhould gather round the door, ſhould I not be *aſhamed* of confeſſing the croſs of CHRIST?" It diſtreſſed me that I ſhould harbour ſuch a thought, for a *moment*; for if the LORD be with me, methinks, there is nothing but what I could *do* or *ſuffer* for him, at his command! I went out boldly at their head, but there was nobody to ſee us. THE GREAT GOD, the ſearcher of hearts, knows the views of every individual! LORD, I would hope, that it is with a view to thy glory, the good of our ſouls, — that we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD JESUS CHRIST; and that brotherly love may continue!"

This SOCIETY has continued, with enlargement, more than twenty years. For a conſiderable time the *deceaſed* procured miniſters from BATH and BRISTOL, who preached conſtantly once a fortnight, on the week-days, but could not be ſpared from their own congregations on the Lord's day; for which reaſon they walked miles to hear the goſpel in the diſtant CHURCHES; until it pleaſed God to raiſe up a preacher among themſelves; whoſe labours have been abundantly bleſſed and owned of Him, to the converſion of many precious ſouls!

Soon after the meeting of this SOCIETY, a goſpel

a goſpel clergyman was providentially introduced into a pariſh contiguous to the town of Trowbridge; whoſe preaching our friend frequently attended, and by whom ſhe was much ſtrengthened. As ſhe had much deſired and prayed for the increaſe of the Redeemer's Kingdom in her native place, ſhe formed very pleaſing hopes from this providence — nor were they vain: for immediately after, the Goſpel was preached in ſeveral of the adjacent CHURCHES with great ſucceſs. — What frame of mind ſhe now poſſeſſed, we may ſee by peruſing the ſubſtance of ſome Letters written to Miſs B——n. —

— "It is my comfort, my ſatisfaction," ſays ſhe, "that I have ſurrendered myſelf up with my whole heart, as far as I know it, to be the LORD's — whoſe I am, who hath bought me with a price, and purchaſed me with his own blood!" In the ſame Letter, ſhe ſays, "LORD, thou knoweſt all things, thou knoweſt I deſire to be entirely thine, thy ſealed fountain, thine incloſed garden! I would only live for GOD; I would only move for his praiſe; — having put my hand to the ſpiritual plow, I would not look back! I would follow thee through *good* report and through *evil* report — I will pray that none of theſe things move me!

Alas! how trifling are the affairs of this life! I would be ſolicitous, anxiouſly ſolicitous

citous in the enquiry, whether CHRIST be mine; and for a happy *aſſurance* of it, by the BLESSED SPIRIT witneſſing with my ſpirit, — diſcovering to me ſcriptural marks and evidences, and conſtraining me to cry out "*My* LORD, and *My* GOD!" I would be indifferent as to the *way* and *method* my heavenly father ſhall take, to wean me from miſery and prepare me for glory — I would leave it to HIM to lead me in the right way! When in AFFLICTION, O may I be made fruitful; — and when ſurrounded with PROSPERITY, may I be humbled — more weaned from EARTH, more raiſed to HEAVEN!

O my dear Miſs B——n, how dangerous is this earthly ſtate! My troubles, my croſſes, my diſappointments, are my *choiceſt* MERCIES — to be at the foot of the croſs, at JESUS's feet to hear his loving lips pronounce theſe reviving words, "BLESSED are ye, when men ſhall revile you, and ſay all manner of evil againſt you, falſely, for my ſake; rejoice, and be exceeding glad!" — O my dear friend, our comfort is not in *ourſelves*; it is not in this or the other *ſituation*, — it is the PRESENCE OF GOD that makes the Chriſtian happy! — *without* it, he is all wants all weakneſs; *with* it, he poſſeſſes all things, and is as a giant refreſhed with wine!"

Several of her Letters at this time breathe the language of a ſoul ſtayed upon GOD; rejoicing

rejoicing in his ſalvation, and in the moſt ſolemn manner devoting herſelf to HIM! In one of them ſhe inſerts this ſtanza: —

" Had I ten thouſand lives my own;
At thy command, with chearful hand,
I'd lay the vital treaſure down,
In hourly tributes at thy feet!"

Her HUMILITY is no leſs conſpicuous: — ſhe ſays, " I am overcome with love; and and the lively gratitude of my friend ſhames my dull ſtupidity. I am aſhamed of myſelf: I would put my hand upon my mouth, and my mouth in the duſt, and cry — " *unclean, unclean!*"

After reflecting upon herſelf in the moſt debaſing manner, ſhe exclaims — " Alas! alas! whither would my ſins ſink me were it not for the purifying FOUNTAIN that is always open! When I view my performances, I abhor myſelf and lie low as in duſt and aſhes!"

Her Confidence in the REDEEMER is as ſtrong, as her Humility is great. Alluding to the defectiveneſs of her prayers, ſhe ſays — " My Advocate, my glorious Interceſſor at the right hand of the Majeſty on High, has *incenſe* to offer with them — a perfume that takes from them all pollution, that makes them ſpices and pleaſant fruits!"

Encouraging herſelf and friend to rely on the faithfuleſs of GOD for the fulfilment of the promiſes, ſhe ſays, — " With the

the hand of *faith* let us lay hold on the promiſes: He gives, by *covenant* and by *oath*, the riches of his grace!"

The *vivacity* natural to her, vented itſelf in ſpeaking forth the praiſes of the LORD, from day to day: "O taſte and ſee that the LORD is good!" Was her language wherever ſhe went.

— "Sing on, my dear dear friends! ſaid ſhe, in another Letter to the ſame correſpondent — I will heartily join the chorus, in attributing Glory to GOD on High, on earth peace, good-will towards men! I want All — every creature I ever ſaw or heard of — to experience the pleaſures of RELIGION — the hidden life, the life of FAITH! —

Ye lovers, ye purſuers of *pleaſure*, ſays ſhe, here are rivers of pleaſure promiſed in CHRIST! He is the only way to the FATHER! — Ye *ambitious*, come; here are crowns of Glory promiſed! *Miſers*, exchange corruptible pleaſures for the riches of GRACE! *Young* and *old*, *rich* and *poor*, *high* and *low*, come to the LORD JESUS CHRIST! He is an overflowing FOUNTAIN, — there is a fullneſs in Him to ſupply *all* your wants! And my heart's deſire and prayer for you my dear dear RELATIONS, is, that you may be *ſaved!*"

The ſenſe ſhe had of her great unworthineſs, and the LORD's free grace and mercy,

cy, ſhe expreſſes thus to the ſame friend:—
— "O my dear Miſs B——n, never was a mortal ſo *unworthy*, ſo *bleſſed* as I! The LORD hath done great things; what more could have been done for me? I want time, I want language to expreſs the greatneſs of my obligations! Having JESUS I poſſeſs all things — Grace here, Glory hereafter!

That the LORD ſhould prepare himſelf an Habitation and dwell with *Man* — *amazing* CONDESCENSION! O may every buyer and ſeller be ſcourged out of this Heart of mine, that it may be a houſe of prayer, and not a den of thieves!

My deareſt friend, I can have no fellowſhip with the *world*; — their manners, their fooliſh cuſtoms grieve me; I cannot conform to them! I would not affect *ſingularity* — but alas, without deſigning it, I am ſo!

The LORD performeth all things for me — is my light, my life, my ſtrength! I can do nothing but *ſin* without his grace! Hitherto, glory be to his name, He hath *helped me*, and hath promiſed "never to leave nor forſake me;" — it is on *his* ſtrength alone I muſt rely! — And he doth light my feet, guide my path, and is my ſun and ſhield! I would live to the glory of GOD: — the LORD, who knoweth all things, knoweth — if my heart do not deceive me — that this is my deſire in whatſoever I

do! But every work the Lord is pleaſed to employ me in, is ſo tinctured with ſin, that it muſt be abominable in the ſight of GOD; for in *my own* eyes it is worſe than droſs and dung!

The LORD is pleaſed to employ me; I am his ſervant; — and though his ſervice is delightful liberty, perfect freedom, and however divinely aſſiſted I am in duty — "Tis PRIDE, that curſed ſin, ſpoils all that I perform!"

Yet did ſhe hunger and thirſt for HUMILITY, continually, as is evident from the remainder of the ſame letter; — "The longing deſire of my ſoul, my poor weak breathings at the throne of grace, are, for HUMILITY! The gifts the Lord hath beſtowed on me are ſmall; and if it be his will they ſhould be ſo, *all is well!* I would wiſh for that meaſure as ſhall be moſt for His glory!" — And the LORD gave her teſtimonies of his approving love for thus ſhe goes on to obſerve: —

— "HE ſmiles upon my ſoul, dandles me on the lap of love; condeſcends for his name, for his ſon's ſake, to accept and anſwer my ſtammering requeſts, and my weak deſires to liſp his praiſe! All my delight is with the SAINTS — the *excellent* of the earth! The LORD carries me through *good* and *evil* report! He knows what is beſt for me: I am fooliſh and cannot chooſe for

for myſelf, but in every thing I would give thanks! It is the delight of my ſoul that GOD may be glorified, whatever becomes of *me*: I would not ſhrink from any ſervice or ſufferings he calls me to! But why do I mention *ſervices*, or *ſufferings?* — Alas, poor nothing nothing that I am!" And this was the language of her renewed part through life and to her lateſt hour; notwithſtanding ſhe groaned, being burdened, with the remains of in-dwelling corruption, at times: — which leſſened gradually, day by day, as the grace of GOD prevailed in her heart: till grace reigned triumphantly over every enemy, and ſhe could ſay, with PAUL, "I have fought a good fight, I have "finiſhed my courſe, I have kept the "faith" &c. —

Notwithſtanding SATAN made a handle of her beſetting ſins, pride and vanity, to diſtreſs her ſoul; and rob her, for a time, of her peace and joy in the Lord: yet he could not move her feet from the firm ROCK CHRIST — the hope ſet before her in the goſpel:" — neither cauſe her faith to fail; nor prevent the work of the Lord from proſpering in her *heart*, or in her *hands!* The CHURCH to which ſhe was a nurſing mother, grew and multiplied, — to the pulling down the ſtrong holds of SATAN in many hearts, and ſetting up the REDEEMER'S Kingdom in its room; as ſhe

thus teſtifies in another Letter to Miſs B——n, concerning the increaſe of the SOCIETY.

— " Rejoice with me, my dearly beloved friend! Our adorable REDEEMER's Kingdom is come into many hearts; and *Satan's* is tumbling down! We have ſweet times of refreſhing from the LORD, in general, at our meetings: — but ſuch precious manifeſtations of the *love* of GOD to particular ſouls, one and another, many many of my deareſt friends, that I cannot but rejoice at the glad tidings! — Who is comforted and I rejoice not!

O my friend! I want a place lowerthan the *loweſt* earth to ſink into — not from the preſence of my GOD; it is my delight, my heaven upon earth, to enjoy *that:* — but, proud haughty worm that I am — How do I long to be *nothing*, that my SAVIOUR, my REDEEMER, my incarnate GOD may be ALL IN ALL!

He has overcome me with his LOVE — rebel, traitor that I am! — O, may my right-hand forget her cunning, rather than I forget where I was, how it was with me, when my SAVIOUR, mighty to ſave, paſſed by and plucked me as a brand from the burning! O! GRACE, GRACE, — *rich, free, ſovereign* GRACE! — Join me, ye daughters of JERUSALEM! Why is the neglected Harp hung upon the willows? Shall the daughters

daughters of ISRAEL ſing of *ſlaughter* — "SAUL has *ſlain* his thouſands, and DAVID his tens of thouſands!" and ſhall not *we* ſing of SALVATION! — proclaim the triumphs of *our victorious* KING; in whoſe ſight the greateſt monarchs of the earth are but as the duſt of the balance!

What is the might of *creatures* thus to be celebrated? — And if we ſpeak of BEAUTY — He is fairer than the ſons of men! None — no, not the SAINTS, who are the *excellent* of the earth, are worthy to be compared! HE is the chiefeſt among ten thouſand: HE hath raviſhed my heart with one of his eyes — and his LOVE ——

— "Tis *love* divine, all loves excelling!"

O my friend! let the MICHALS, the *barren* profeſſors, call our holy joy *enthuſiaſm*, *deluſion*, or what they pleaſe; I will be yet more vile, and dance before the ark with all my might! Glory, increaſing glory be to our *all-glorious*, TRIUNE GOD — and let all the people ſay *Amen*.

Indeed, my dear, I am highly favored; — have much more to ſay, but have not time to write it now! Two or three mornings ago I was reflecting on my paſt uncommon chearfulneſs, and, indeed, gaiety in religion. I thought whether it were right, — though, indeed, I cannot reſtrain it, — and was beſeeching the LORD not to ſuffer me to be under a deluſion: — whilſt I was

yet

yet ſpeaking, theſe words came with great power —I believe they are in the PSALMS— " GOD, even thy *own* GOD, hath anointed " thee with the oil of gladneſs above thy fellows" — but I cannot repeat one thouſandth part of the goodneſs of the LORD— HALLELUJAH! *praiſe the* LORD!" —

In another Letter to the ſame perſon, dated March 7, 1763, ſhe writes thus; — " O my friend, if I had a thouſand tongues, I could not expreſs a thouſandth part of GOD's goodneſs to me, worm as I am; mine eyes have ſeen the LORD; wherefore, I abhor myſelf as in duſt and aſhes! I would deſire, in every thing I ſay or do, to have a ſingle eye to GOD's *glory*: it is meet, right, and my bounden duty ſo to do; but in every thing I offend, by exalting *ſelf!* Surely, there is none in my heavenly father's family like me: I cannot ſee one of ſuch a proud, ſelf-magnifying diſpoſition as *myſelf!*

The LORD is pleaſed to employ me: to give me inclination and ability, a wonderful ſhare of health, ſtrength of body, and activeneſs of diſpoſition! By *nature*, none more heavy, more indolent, than myſelf! Glory be to GOD! He continually upholds me, or to what a dreadful diſtance ſhould I continually backſlide! But the LORD will not ſuffer me — for his ſon's ſake, for his glory's ſake, for his promiſe ſake — will not let me finally fall!

Hitherto

Hitherto, He hath *helped;* — hath promiſed never to leave nor forſake me! But, my dear, is it not ſtrange that *grace* — the *grace of our* LORD JESUS CHRIST, does not make me more HUMBLE? Sometimes, I want to break my fetters, and to ſpring up into his preſence and likeneſs — not to be freed from outward troubles and anxieties — I have *none:* the LORD bears me and all my burdens: the path of duty is made ſo plain and eaſy, it is delightful: — but after I have done all, I ſee myſelf ſuch an *unprofitable* ſervant! — I am almoſt continually checked at my manner of performing any thing — it is droſs, it is dung; juſtly might the Lord caſt it in my face with a — "Who hath required this at thy hands?" But SALVATION is *finiſhed* — JESUS ſuffered, bled, and died! — O! how am I indebted to rich, free, ſovereign *grace*! My dear, praiſe for me: — O, may the LORD give you to ſhout aloud for joy on my behalf!"

Speaking of the further increaſe of the SOCIETY, ſhe ſays — "The LORD is a wonder-working GOD! I am aſtoniſhed; my ſpeech fails me; nay, like the Queen of SHEBA, my heart fainteth at the glorious appearance — for a far greater than SOLOMON is here! I am young, a *novice* — but the young men, the *fathers* in CHRIST, are amazed to ſee ſo many under convictions; — ſo many waiting at the pool of BETHESDA,

and

and ſo many rejoicing in the LORD — built up, ſtrengthened, and eſtabliſhed!

A near and dear RELATION, a * Lad of nineteen years of age, is inclined to join our SOCIETY, without the leaſt invitation from any of us! I cannot tell you, how I am bleſt in this ſweet RELATION! He is a wonder unto many; a ſcribe well inſtructed ſo full of light, life and love! — Like Mr. HERVEY, he turns our tea-repaſt into an *ordinance*; talks with, and reads ſermons to us; and, afterwards, ſets us to ſinging PSALMS — and I hope to ſee *greater* things than theſe! His MOTHER ſeems to be longing for the *ſalvation* of the LORD! How happy is ſhe, to have a *preacher* raiſed up in her family; and a ſweet one too! It is but for the LORD to ſpeak, and great ſhall be the company of the *preachers!*

A gentleman that you heard me ſpeak of, and his family, ſeem greatly awakened; and many more! Glory be to God, this winter has been a bleſſed winter! Pray for us, that theſe impreſſions may not be like the morning-cloud, and early dew, that paſſeth away; but that all may *endure* HARDSHIPS, as good ſoldiers of JESUS CHRIST!"

In this ſame correſpondence we have a a very agreeable anecdote; whereby we ſee how ſmall the beginnings of the work of GOD

* Mr. John Clark, the preſent paſtor over the people at the TABERNACLE, in TROWBRIDGE.

God ſometimes are, and by how minute an incident *great events* may be brought about! In the continuation of an account of the progreſs the little SOCIETY is making, for the proſperity of which ſhe diſcovers an unabating concern; ſhe mentions a young man, a ſhop-man to a grocer, who bore all the marks of a *ſincere* CHRISTIAN. One evidence was, his zeal to communicate to the family at large, what he himſelf partook of, that is to ſay, the *grace* of GOD; and thoſe clear views of the method of ſalvation, by *faith alone* in JESUS CHRIST; which at beſt they had very *confuſed* ideas of.

To effect his endeavours he found it neceſſary to *elude* their PREJUDICES: and that the Author whom he put into their hands might be read without *partiality*, he concealed the NAME in the *title page*. The Author, who was Mr. WHITFIELD, obtained approbation; and the young man had permiſſion to read to them in the ſame volume. One of the ſubjects was, the duty of *family-prayer*, from Joſhua xxiv. 15. — The *conviction* of the duty led to the *practice* of it: which was afterwards ſupported, for ſome time, either by the Maſter of the family, or by the young man in his abſence.

May we not here detect the evil of PREJUDICE: and learn from hence, that if people would be guided by *reaſon*, inſtead of

of being miſled by *partiality*; they would make many valuable diſcoveries, which, through PREJUDICE, they are kept ignorant of?

In this correſpondence, likewiſe, we purſue this active handmaid of the LORD, through various laborious employments of viſiting the ſick, the poor, and the afflicted; and hear her breathing out her ſoul to GOD in prayer, that ſhe might not be a cumberer of the ground, and a dead weight on the cauſe of GOD, or a clog to religion! She alſo expreſſed her dread of inactivity and ſelf-indulgence; and of there being any thing in her conduct, that might damp the ardour and zeal of GOD's people! We find her condeſcending to do the meaneſt offices for her poor brethren and ſiſters, and ſee her ſenſibly affected with their joys and ſorrows!

Her ſoul is ſuitably affected by the happy exit of a poor woman of the SOCIETY, whoſe life and death redounded much to the credit of religion; — nor leſs afflicted by the irregular conduct of a *backſlider*, who was expelled from the little SOCIETY; — "Alas! ſaith ſhe, my brother! I mourn, I pray for him; LORD JESUS, reſtore him, if it be thy bleſſed will!"

In the fall of *others*, ſhe diſcovers her obligations to GOD for his preſerving and eſtabliſhing *grace*, and makes this ſuitable reflection,

reflection, — " How wonderful is the arm of the LORD revealed, in upholding me — ſuch a worm as I am: if left to *myſelf*, what ſhipwreck ſhould I make of faith and a good conſcience! But the LORD will not ſuffer it: — He will " keep me as the apple of his eye: — He will never leave, never forſake me; — none ſhall pluck me out of his hand!"

In the ſame letter ſhe gives her more enlarged views; ſaying, " I am ſtrongly perſuaded the LORD will furniſh me for every good word and deed, and enable me to perform every good work, He calls me to! I can now lie down in peace under his protection, and go forth in his ſtrength all the day long! How wonderfully doth he condeſcend to *me*, the weakeſt of his family! He grants me my requeſts, fulfils my deſires; encompaſſes me about with a wall of fire; bears all my burdens, my ſins and my ſorrows: — I muſt rejoice in the LORD; yea, my ſoul ſhall make her boaſt in GOD!

I am weary of this hard, cold, lifeleſs heart: I am not weary of the world with all its oppoſition: not weary of the ſervice of GOD, in theſe courts below — though it is all imperfection: — it is delightful to ſpend and be ſpent for GOD!"

Her COMPANY now became a burthen to thoſe who were ſtangers to her joy. Her

 conduct,

conduct, in mixing ſo openly with the *poor*, and going with them to church and meeting ſo conſtantly, was conſidered in the moſt unfavourable light. To prevent the continuance of this, ſhe was put upon taking another journey to BRISTOL, in hopes ſhe would remain there.

Two good effects followed from this ſcheme: that is, it proved an opportunity of remarkable USEFULNESS — as will be taken notice of; — and put her upon *her own hands:* whereby ſhe was releaſed from many inconveniences peculiar to her then preſent connections. The circumſtances referred to may be taken from a Letter written on the occaſion: —

— "A few weeks ago, I was providentially led to viſit a young lady in a galloping conſumption. My *heart* was filled with love, and my *mouth* with words of encouragement! I ſpake comfortably to her from GOD's WORD! The LORD gave me favor in her ſight, though a ſtranger. She deſired me to ſee her often. After my ſecond viſit I was diſcouraged. I could not diſcern in her, what I thought, a proper diſtreſs for ſin; therefore ſuſpected the work was not begun. Her concern about *little trifling* things diſguſted me; and concluding, that it was the LORD only that could work in her both *to will* and *to do*, was reſolved to ſtay away: He was ALPHA and OMEGA;

OMEGA; — had the keys of Hell and Death; — openeth and no man can ſhut, and ſhutteth and no man can open!" However, with much *weakneſs* and little *faith*, I importuned the LORD to have mercy upon her! In the midſt of my unwillingneſs, a friend told me Miſs —— wanted to ſee me — from this time I was made willing — it was the day of the LORD's power!

One evening, about a month ago, ſhe told me ſhe thought ſhe ſhould die! I aſked her, whether ſhe was *willing* to die? She ſaid, "O yes! if ſhe was but *prepared*;" burſt into tears, and affectionately claſped my hand! I ſpake to her, as the LORD enabled me, of JESUS the *friend* of *ſinners*: of the efficacy of his blood to atone for, and of his righteouſneſs to adorn, the moſt guilty ſoul — all that will come, all that thirſt. A violent fit of *coughing* came on, which much diſtreſſed me; ſuppoſing by too much converſation I had been the cauſe of it.

From that time I had no doubt of her ſalvation! Soon after, I had a *delightful* opportunity with her! it was a morning to be remembered! She was thirſting for JESUS, and longed for an intereſt in *him* more than for a thouſand worlds; there was none in heaven ſhe deſired but Him! She was looking for a ſweet Hymn of Mr. CENNICK's ſuitable to her ſtate; the title of it "*Thirſting for* JESUS." I found it out and read it.

That night ſhe had been greatly bleſſed in dreaming ſhe was in heaven; and the nurſe heard her ſing, very ſweetly, theſe verſes of Mr. WHITFIELD's Hymn for SOCIETY

"Who ſo much cauſe to ſing,
Who ſo much cauſe to bleſs:
As we the children of a King,
As we who CHRIST poſſeſs!"

I could not but take account that ſhe had been with JESUS! There was a ſacred ſhine upon her countenance! "While I was muſing, the fire kindled" in my own ſoul — praiſe and glory be to our GOD, for ever and for ever! — I think this was about a fortnight ago.

Laſt Wedneſday evening I found her dying. She ſaid, ſhe wanted me to come and ſtay with her; but was then going to ſleep. The Rev. Mr. THOMAS came in, and aſked her ſeveral queſtions; which ſhe anſwered diſtinctly and ſatisfactory, though ſhe ſeemed *low*. He prayed that ſhe might be enabled to leave behind her a comfortable *teſtimony* of the HOPE that was in her! She had an exceedingly reſtleſs night; but after a ſounder ſleep in the morning, by which ſhe was much refreſhed, ſhe looked upon me and two of her companions, with ſuch a *heavenly* look and ſmile, as was *aſtoniſhing!* My dear, ſaid I, you look very *happy*; is any *particular* promiſe applied to your ſoul — or are ALL the promiſes yours? — and

— and I repeated ſeveral. — "ALL are mine!" ſaid ſhe. Then you have no *doubts?* ſaid I. She replied "None at all *now*, though I *have had ſometimes!*" I ſaid, then you think CHRIST is *able* to *ſave* you, He is GOD! — "O yes!" ſaid the dear creature. And *willing* too, ſaid I, for he DIED for *ſinners!* — "YES YES, HE IS!" ſhe replied. He is the "chiefeſt among ten thouſand," ſaid I! "He is *lovely*," ſaid ſhe — "*altogether lovely!*" My dear, ſaid I, you are going to be freed from priſon, and to be admitted to the general aſſembly above! — "I am," ſhe replied; "*and going to* ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB!" It doth not appear, ſaid I, what we ſhall be, but we ſhall be like JESUS! — "Oh," ſaid ſhe, "that long white robe that covers from head to foot — I *long to have it on!*" — meaning a SHROUD which ſhe dreamt was ſent her in a band-box; folded up, and a paper on it, whereon was written, "*peace be unto thee, thy ſins are forgiven thee;*" and it was *that* which ſet her ſoul at ſuch an happy liberty. "I TALK OF DYING!" ſaid ſhe, — "but *when* ſhall I die? — yet I would not be *impatient!*" Seeing her young friends *weep*, ſhe ſaid — "Do not *grieve for me*:" and, to one of them, ſhe ſaid; "If you were going *with me*, then you would be happy!" She looked round the room, and

ſaid, " I believe there are places prepared above for every one of us!" —

Many, very many GRACIOUS words, dropped from her lips, which I pray God may be ſolemnly impreſſed on every heart that heard them! a more *pleaſant* and *ſmiling* countenance, in death, I never ſaw: nor any, in the moſt perfect health, more *ſerene* and *calm*: not a complaint or a groan was heard: ſorrow and ſighing was already done away by her dear REDEEMER; who was *wonderfully* with her in the dark valley! The LORD was her light; ſhe had no darkneſs! — When they wiped the death-ſweats from her face, ſhe ſmiled, and ſaid, " You cannot wipe *theſe* away!"

In the evening, when I called again, I know not how we were led to it, but the nurſe and I ſpake on a trifling ſubject; which we thought would have *diverted* her. She looked *graver* than I ever ſaw her. I felt the reproof, and ſaid, " My dear, I will talk to *you* of nothing but JESUS: of his dying love, of his riſing power!" She ſmiled and ſaid, " *No*; *nothing*, *nothing elſe*!" Miſs B——n watched with her, and, in the night heard her ſay — " All glory, all praiſe, all worſhip and adoration!" — as if ſhe had begun the ſong of MOSES and the LAMB.

A very ſhort time before ſhe expired, the Rev. Mr. THOMAS felt her pulſe. She aſked

aſked him, "How he found it?" He ſaid, he believed ſhe was drawing near her diſſolution. She replied, "Sir, I am glad of it!" He prayed with her. She leaned forward in her chair to prevent coughing. Her mama obſerved her lifting up her hands to Heaven with great earneſtneſs; and, in a few minutes after, ſhe fell aſleep in JESUS!"

But while Miſs COOK was thus profitably and delightfully employed, in viſiting the ſick, and in other offices of love, among her friends at BRISTOL, ſhe received information that ſhe muſt change the plan of her life; and either relinquiſh the METHODISTS, or leave the advantage of boarding in her late comfortable manner, free of all expence. She did not heſitate, a moment, which to chooſe; but determined to be faithful to her holy calling, though ſhe lived, in the meaneſt cottage, on bread and water. So far from giving up the people of GOD, ſhe only waited for ſuch an opening in providence, to look out for a cottage in order to be more at liberty to forward the cauſe ſhe had eſpouſed, by having a place of her own, where ſhe could receive the people, and accommodate the miniſters, who came from far. But ſhe was at a loſs where to find an empty cottage, or part of a houſe, at Trowbridge: and the following extract from her JOURNAL will beſt ſet forth her painful and pleaſing feelings, on the occaſion.

ſion. She betook herſelf to prayer, as her only reſource, in this time of diſtreſs and difficulty; for thus ſhe expreſſes herſelf: —

— " I importuned the GOD of the whole earth to provide me an habitation, food and raiment; and every convenience requiſite for my poor body, as ſhould be beſt for his glory! And I would adore him, with unceaſing praiſes, that my ſoul is not deſtitute: that He himſelf is its HABITATION, whereunto I may alway reſort! — its FOOD likewiſe, for he ſaid, " Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you! — and its RAIMENT, the Garment of Salvation! — and " If a ſon aſk bread, will he give him a ſtone; if meat, will he give him a ſerpent?" Glorify thyſelf, O thou GOD of LOVE — in me, through me, by me!

Thurſday, — And is THE MOST HIGH GOD an Habitation for my ſoul; my Rock, the Houſe of my defence, and my ſtrong Tower? Has he hid me in that Rock, and cauſed all his goodneſs to paſs before me? GLORY for ever to his name, HE *has!* I am in CHRIST! grafted into him, dwell in him: — and He will alſo provide for my *earthly* part! I ſhall want no manner of thing which is good: the earth is the LORD's and the fullneſs thereof! I ſhall be led by a way I know not: He will ſmite Rocks! I ſhall never be confounded, never be put to ſhame! LORD, increaſe my faith: —

faith: — I believe, help thou mine unbelief!

O, what an ignorant, ſimple, fooliſh child am I! — never were ſuch broken petitions accepted before; ſuch ſtammering requeſts granted! — it is all for CHRIST's ſake! — I abhor my prayers; they are chatterings indeed! JESUS, my adorable SAVIOUR, has purchaſed every bleſſing; and how *little* do I *love* him! My dear LORD aſſures me of his *love:* He is every thing I want! His *croſs* and his *preſence*, — O how ſweet! LORD, why this *love* to me? — it overcomes me! What wilt thou have me to do? reveal thy dear will to me, and I will die for thee; ſubmit my head to the block, my body to the flames! If THOU art near; the moſt cruel death, even *famine*, will be ſweet! There is no affliction that I dread but *thy* ABSENCE! O leave me not; — I can do nothing without thee!

LORD, why this out-pouring of thy precious LOVE? — "Thou haſt raviſhed my heart with one of thine eyes!" — Why theſe *endearing* names, ſo ſweetly impreſſed on my mind — *Thy* FATHER, *thy* HUSBAND, *thy* STRENGTH, THE MIGHTY GOD *thy* DELIVERER! Is there any trial coming upon me? *My* SAVIOUR will be with me!

LORD, thou loveſt me with an unchangeable love; therefore I am not conſumed!

How

How cold my heart; how lifeleſs my petitions; how little have I to ſay to thee — and yet am ſurrounded on every ſide with difficulties! I have been wandering among the creatures; and my proud heart has been puffed up with the applauſe of fellow-worms! O, when ſhall I be freed from this *ſatanic* diſpoſition? JESUS, my GOD, my humble SAVIOUR, take poſſeſſion of my whole heart; reign in me without a rival; bring every thought into ſubjection to thy bleſſed ſelf! I will not let thee go except thou bleſs me: I ſhall be miſerable without thy bleſſing! —

Friday noon; — Surely, the LORD is doing great things for me by the death of a poor wretch! I believe, LORD, thou art providing me an Houſe juſt in the ſituation — the *very place*, I want; and believe thou haſt given me to deſire it! If it be for thy Glory put it into the heart of my brother to take it for me: all hearts are in thine hands! Bring it to paſs; make it a bleſſing to me, and give me thy dear preſence, or I ſhould be miſerable in it! Mine eyes are to thee, and to thee only: glorify thyſelf — do with me as thou ſeeſt good!

Saturday — LORD, when ſhall I be unhinged from every thing here below — alike unmoved at *ſmiles* or *ſlights* from friends? When ſhall I have no paſſion no deſire, but that of *love* to my REDEEMER?

LORD,

LORD, remember thy ſervant in all her troubles! Is it not for *thy* ſake, for *thy* cauſe? Can they ſay any thing againſt me, ſave in the matter of my GOD? Diſplay thine ALMIGHTY arm: provide me an habitation, food and raiment, every thing neceſſary! — Thou haſt *promiſed*, and thou wilt *perform!*

Monday, — O my unbelieving heart! How can theſe things be, it cries! I get groveling here below! — The people reproach — taunt over me — ſay, "*Do you expect* MIRACLES? LORD, remember DAVID in all his troubles! Shall I not go up to thy work — up to fight thy battles? LORD, what wilt thou have me to do? — ſpeak, for thy ſervant would hear! guide my every movement, my every ſtep — by the pillar of fire by night; and of the cloud by day! If I ſaw ways and means — every thing likely to ſucceed; it would not be walking *by* FAITH! I would not chooſe for myſelf! I ſee it right to live at TROWBRIDGE, in order to encourage and ſtrengthen the hands of the people of GOD there: and believe the LORD has called me to that work; though at preſent, there is no Houſe found for me.

For ſome years I have thought of living by myſelf, when it ſhould not be convenient to live with my relations; which is now the caſe. If the LORD give me an Houſe, it ſhall be devoted to Him; — for his

his miniſters, his people! I will erect an altar there to his glory! Lord, open thou my lips, that my mouth may ſhew forth thy praiſe! I have found great ſweetneſs and encouragement from the 54th of ISAIAH, and I believe the LORD there promiſes that I ſhall never be put to ſhame: He will lead me by a way that I know not. LORD, increaſe my faith: keep me continually; ſuffer me never to be a reproach to thy people, to thy cauſe; guide me continually, that thy holy RELIGION may not be blamed for my miſconduct; be with me through all the wilderneſs; bear me as thine ISRAEL of old! — There is no affliction like the hidings of thy countenance!"

THUS diſtreſſed and perplexed in mind: ſometimes relying on the promiſes of GOD, and at other times ready almoſt to give up her hope, becauſe there was not yet an habitation to be found at Trowbridge; and having ſtayed a ſufficient time with the friends ſhe viſited: ſhe began to think ſhe ſhould be an *outcaſt* among men; and have, like her Saviour, no place wherein to lay her head. In this time of extremity, this great exigence, it appears, that her valuable couſins Johnſon took her to live with them, till ſhe could hear of a houſe at Trowbridge: for thus ſhe goes on with her JOURNAL —

— "Monday,

— "Monday, July 30, 1764. College-green, BRISTOL; at Miſs Johnſon's: — "O MY GOD, THOU haſt brought me; — it is a place of thine own providing, an habitation thou giveſt me; — and thou doſt bleſs me! All thy gifts, O my GOD, are without repentance! Here, I taſte ſomething of the joys of Heaven — in ſweetly contending with my dear Miſs JOHNSON, who ſhall love our dear IMMANUEL moſt! Though of different perſuaſions in ſome *doctrinal* points, and each zealous in our opinion — Glory be to GOD, we have *no other* ſtrife!

But, alas, I am not worthy to unlooſe the latchet of her ſhoes! *She* does adorn the doctrine of GOD her SAVIOUR, in all things! O my leanneſs, my leanneſs! LORD, take me into cloſer communion with thy bleſſed ſelf; I cannot bear this diſtance! — O permit me, worm as I am — to walk, to talk with thee! My ſoul longeth, nay even fainteth for thoſe bleſſed privileges! How is it that every one of the family makes a greater proficiency; excels me, improves their talents better than I?

LORD, make me a lively ſtone! THOU art my life; I cannot move without thee! Teach me how to pray; I am thy child; and ſhall not I call thee "*Abba*, FATHER?" permit me to plead with thee; fill my mouth with arguments! LORD, ſhould I make a bad uſe of this Gift, that thou withholdeſt it from me! glorify thyſelf;

let me be any thing thou wouldſt have me be; but oh! when I have an habitation — enable me, for thy name's ſake, for thy glory's ſake — to call upon THEE! I cannot let thee go, unleſs thou bleſs me! Thou art my only friend; thou muſt ſupply my every want — and wilt thou not be ſought unto for theſe things? LORD, open thou my lips, that my mouth may ſhew forth thy praiſe!

Tueſday, July 31, 1764. — O what an ignorant wretch am I! How little do I know of JESUS — of his *dying* love, of his *riſing* power! LORD JESUS, that which I know not, teach thou me: take me into cloſer union with thy adorable ſelf; let me die to every thing beſides: — let me talk with thee, walk with thee, continually! O, be thou the only beloved of my ſoul; overcome me with thy love, with one look of thine eyes! Why ſhould I be as a ſtranger to my BELOVED? — Touch my heart, touch my lips with a live coal!

O, what a poor weakling, what a babe do I continue; whilſt others are flouriſhing in the courts of my GOD! O, what a *lively devoted* chriſtian is my dear Miſs J——n! — Her life is a tranſcript of her dear REDEEMER'S: there is nothing in her whole behaviour, in her whole converſation, that grieves, that diſtreſſes me! Her faith, her love, her zeal, her patience — ALL ſweetly active

active and ſhining! We enjoy ſomething of Heaven — it is BETHEL! We differ in *judgment;* without *contention*, except who ſhall LOVE *moſt!* We converſe together of JESUS — pray and praiſe together! O, what a cumberer of the ground am I? Glory be to GOD, who hath caſt my lot here! — it is a bleſſed place, an habitation of the LORD's providing! In my dear Miſs J——n, I ſee, how true believers *ſhould* live! EBENEZER — hitherto the LORD hath *helped* — hath carried me in his arms of LOVE; — heaped BLESSINGS upon me of the *upper* and the *nether* ſprings!

Prayer-meetings exceedingly ſweet: — I am feaſted as with marrow and fatneſs! A dear friend, Mrs. D——le, whom the Lord hath wonderfully ſet at liberty to praiſe him; to believe his promiſes, to truſt his word — we ſpake together of his goodneſs to us in the land of the living, till we brake out aloud in HOSANNAHS and HALLELUJAHS! Glory, glory, glory be to GOD, who doth appear as in days of old!

Sept. 5, 1764. — I think I had a ſweet promiſe, this morning, that I ſhould never be forſaken: that I ſhould always walk in the light of his countenance! I did not, before, doubt but the LORD would *keep* me to the end: but oh, if He would condeſcend always to *ſmile*, to be *ſenſibly* near my ſoul; to be my light my life! — O LORD,

let it be unto thy ſervant, according to thy word, on which thou haſt cauſed me to hope!

Sept. 6th, 1764. — Loſt in wonder, love and praiſe, at the great things the LORD hath done for me in a *temporal* way: — ſurely, he hath reſtored goods, houſe, friends, &c. an hundred-fold! — What an habitation, what friends, have I! — my cup runneth over; I am fed with the fineſt of the wheat; glory, glory be to GOD! — And if I had ten thouſand lives — *all* ſhould be devoted to HIM! I am aſhamed of my poor returns of love: to *me* belong nothing but ſhame and confuſion of face! My mouth is in the duſt; but as long as I have any being I will ſing praiſes unto my GOD!"

September the twenty-ſeventh, of the ſame year, part of a houſe was found for her, in TROWBRIDGE, juſt in the mount of extremity: for ſhe had packed up the goods ſhe mentions in the JOURNAL, that Miſs J——n made her a preſent of, believing the LORD would provide an houſe. And according to her faith, ſo was it done unto her — as her JOURNAL concerning it teſtifies. —

— "September 27, 1764. "JEHOVAH JIREH" — the LORD hath WONDERFULLY *appeared!* — Some time paſt, queſtioning whether the LORD would be with me; ſaying, how could theſe things be? Would He open

open the windows of Heaven, *then* indeed it might be — the precious 54th of ISAIAH occurred to my mind: which I believe was impreſſed by the SPIRIT of GOD, two or three days before I received a Letter, giving me to underſtand, that it would not be agreeable for me to return to my former habitation: from which I concluded, the LORD directed me to keep Houſe; — that it was his will; and he would provide me with every neceſſary. Some few nights before, in a dream, I was greatly affected with that promiſe, "When thou art in the "fire, I will be with thee; and in the wa-"ters, they ſhall not overflow thee! — O what a promiſe-performing GOD is mine!

Dear Miſs JOHNSON's heart was inclined to promiſe me much furniture, (almoſt as much as I want) the day after I received a Letter of diſmiſſion from my dear friends houſe, at Trowbridge. If one ſpring is ſtopped, another is opened. — "All my freſh ſprings are *in* HIM" — from whom all my conſolations flow! "My heart is fixed truſting in the LORD!" Glory be to him, I have not been ſuffered to doubt but I ſhall have an habitation; and all things convenient, in the ſight of all men; crying continually, without ceaſing, to my heavenly father — but in ſo *broken* a manner! — abundantly meaner than the chatterings

of a crane: — He heard me, not for my *prayers*, but for my REDEEMER's ſake!

My uninlightened friends ſaid, there would not be a place for me at TROWBRIDGE; that I ſhould be *diſappointed*; for ſo would they have it to be. But my deſire was to go up to the LORD's work in *that* place, my native place: and he gave me almoſt continual encouragements and calls. The 7th of Deuteronomy was a ſeaſonable reviving cordial, at this time of diſtreſs!

At another time, when Miſs J——n perſuaded me not to ſend my goods till I was certain of a houſe, the firſt ſix verſes of the twelfth of EZEKIEL made me forward it: — "Son of man, thou dwelleſt in the midſt "of a rebellious houſe, which have eyes "to ſee and ſee not; they have ears to "hear and hear not; for they are a rebel- "lious houſe. Therefore, thou ſon of "man, prepare thee ſtuff for removing, "and remove by day in their ſight; and "thou ſhalt remove from thy place to* "another place in their ſight: it may be "they will conſider, though they be a "rebellious houſe. Then ſhalt thou bring "forth thy ſtuff by day in their ſight, as "ſtuff for removing: and thou ſhalt go "forth

* It is remarkable, that Mrs. Turner DID remove this ſame furniture Miſs J——n gave her; firſt, to Trowbridge, where ſhe built a TABERNACLE for the LORD; and afterwards to Tiſbury, near Hindon, in the County of Wilts, where ſhe built another Houſe for God.

" forth at even in their ſight, as they that
" go forth into captivity. Dig thou through
" the wall in their ſight, and carry it out
" thereby. In their ſight ſhalt thou bear
" it upon thy ſhoulders, and carry it forth
" in the twilight: thou ſhalt cover thy
" face that thou ſee not the ground; for I
" have ſet thee for a ſign unto the houſe
" of Iſrael." — And before the goods were ready to go, an houſe was provided, and conveniences, without my taking thought; for which I bleſs my heavenly father, who ſo wonderfully provides for me! I am now furniſhed with almoſt every convenience: chearfully purchaſe neceſſaries, but dread having a *ſuperfluous* thing — I have no right to *that*: my GOD has not promiſed it me: I *want* it not — no, if it coſt but one farthing!

This morning the *Stuff* is gone. I uſed my endeavours to have it loaden with care; and am ſatisfied that all my concerns are under the divine ſuperintendence. It has been a bleſſed morning; ſurely, this has been a time to be remembered! My Soul is watered as with the dews of heaven: I have ſweet communion with my GOD! I have told him my whole heart; importuned for his preſence; caſt myſelf upon him, as having nothing elſe to truſt to; begged he would glorify himſelf in me: let what would happen to me I cared not! But

I was ſolicitous, very ſolicitous for the converſion of my dear RELATIONS — ſaid, — I would leave them to his time if he would give me ſome token for good! ERSKIN's *Believers jointure* has been ſweet to me! I opened on my knees the ſecond chapter of Daniel: — O, what faith was his! — "Then Daniel went in and told the King, if he would give him time, he would ſhew the interpretation." The LORD is the ſame, yeſterday, to day, and for ever! — O that He would give me faith like his ſervants of old!

Opening a new BIBLE, the leaf was folded down — which could not be in the *binding*, becauſe the edge was gilt — at the 49th of GENESIS, and the latter part of the 26th verſe; "The bleſſings of the utmoſt "bounds of the everlaſting hills, they ſhall "be on the head of Joſeph, and on the "crown of him that was ſeparated from his "brethren." — O my GOD, my GOD, is not this "*thy* WORD, *thy* PROMISE, whereon thy ſervant *may* HOPE?" Surely, it is a token for good; and my ſoul is refreſhed as with new-wine!" —

SHE returned from BRISTOL with the bleſſing of the LORD upon her, as upon the PATRIARCH of old, to whom the LORD ſaid — "Return unto thy country, and to "thy kindred, and I will deal well with "thee."

She

She went out, an OUT-CAST, as it were, from the face of her near and dear friends; and returned, laden with the gifts and favours of her *diſtant* relations. Nay, ſhe found the faces of thoſe that were ſet againſt her, now turned towards her, as ESAU's was to JACOB; for thus ſhe writes to Miſs E. J——n on the occaſion: —

— "HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! — bleſs the LORD, O my ſoul; and all that is within me, bleſs his holy name, for his mercy endureth for ever! — O my dear friend, I cannot expreſs the thouſandth part of the goodneſs of the LORD; — He hath bleſſed my going out and my coming in!

After your dear ſiſter left me, I was ſo wrapt up in ſweet ſilent meditation of the all-glorions, all-lovely, TRIUNE GOD; and in admiring the works of creation, the delightful weather, the pleaſantneſs of the country, the ſweet SUN *of Righteouſneſs* ſhining upon my ſoul — that I could not attend to my company! Their voices ſeemed harſh and diſagreeable; till I conſidered, *now* was the time to live *for* GOD: to live *with* Him an ETERNITY is provided! I therefore endeavoured to ſpeak a word *for* him: the converſation was bleſſed to *my own* ſoul, at leaſt! He gave me courage in the day of battle; and enabled me to reprove

prove a very old ſwearer for taking his *ſacred* name in vain.

The LORD was with me of a truth in my journey: and I arrived ſafe at my ſiſters, in the evening, and was received kindly! All my care and anxiety, I ſee is needleſs. My brethren in the LORD received me with a loving ſimplicity, glorifying GOD on my behalf. There were no raptures nor tranſports of admiration, but all their behaviour was delightfully *ſweet* and *calm!* JESUS was exalted and adored! I gave them an invitation to meet at my houſe Lord's-day mornings. All my relations acknowledge how *well* I look: and expreſs ſuch a ſurprize as ſhews they expected to have ſeen me a very different creature.

After breakfaſt I went to my Houſe: and ſurely, my heart did glow with *ſomething like* — GRATITUDE! LORD, increaſe the little ſparke into a mighty flame! I had my bed-ſtead ſoon put up. Siſter Cole ſent me a new bed and quilt; and indeed they look very neat; but I muſt not admire the creature! —

"This fooliſh heart would leave its GOD,
And *ſhadows* tempt her thoughts abroad!"

If I ſhould accept, of all the invitations given me from friends and relatives, I ſhould *eat* and *drink* almoſt continually. I have hitherto conſtantly dined out: and am yet, for ſeveral days, engaged to dine abroad:

abroad: ſo that it will be ſome time before I have finiſhed my round: — thus I fare ſumptuouſly every day. But I riſe from table as ſoon as it is diſcharged, and return home to my own beloved chamber, where I have had a conſtant fire.

Miſs Jennings is extremely ill. Miſs Allen and ſhe are both exceedingly obliging and kind to me: but they do not own and honor my SAVIOUR, therefore I am afraid they do not know him. I told them they had taken a *methodiſt* into their houſe; and I was determined, through CHRIST ſtrengthning me, to be more and more ſo — and when they were weary of me they muſt put me away. I told them of our Society's coming to my parlour Sunday-mornings, and invited them to partake of the goſpel feaſt; as in my Father's Houſe there is *bread enough and to ſpare!* Theſe dear creatures ſaid nothing to the contrary; but there has been a mighty buſtle ſince. My poor Couſin J— C— was like to have a fatal blow from a friend for meeting with us: — but, glory be to GOD, he was preſerved, and has had much of the LORD's preſence ever ſince! Laſt night the ſtorm fell upon *me*. My AUNT came to perſuade me againſt it — ſaid, it would be hurtful to Miſs Jenning's and Miſs Allen's *trade*: but glory be to GOD, before ſhe went away — "SAUL *was alſo among the prophets!*"

Nay,

Nay, the tables were *ſo* turned, that I inſiſted upon it — *She ſhould meet with us!* I invited her in my LORD's *name*; and would admit of no *excuſe* but her inability to *riſe ſo early*, becauſe ſhe is unwieldy and weak: but ſhe promiſed to come — *evenings* — if we ever ſhould meet. My deareſt couſin, rejoiced with me! She went away *ſo* melted into *love to* CHRIST; *ſo* BROKEN IN HEART! — O, what ſhall we render unto the LORD!

Very ſoon after, Miſs Allen and Miſs Jenkins told me their fears of *loſing their* BUSINESS, by having a *methodiſt* meeting in their houſe: but I told them, it was the *only way to proſper* — " *to ſeek* BLESSINGS *of the* LORD!" We had a great deal of converſation upon it: but I *inſiſted* on it that I would erect an altar for the LORD in my habitation — and that I ſhould be continually having friends " to *pray down* BLESSINGS upon them!" I pleaded my right to do as I *pleaſed*, and admit whom I *pleaſed* into *my* APARTMENT; but told them I would ſtay no longer in their houſe than *they pleaſed*. I was ſure the LORD would provide me another place — I would not even inſiſt on the quarter's warning.

After putting up my broken petitions to the LORD that he would ſtrengthen me — unto *me* belong nothing but ſhame and confuſion of face, — I was enabled, the firſt

firſt night, to beſeech them that we might *pray together* before we went to reſt: as the LORD had threatened to pour out *curſes* — "on the FAMILIES that *call not* upon Him!"

O how good, how gracious, how condeſcending is my HEAVENLY FATHER! How does he chear the heart of his poor deſtitute helpleſs ones! He will "never leave me nor forſake me!" I am not "afraid of evil tidings; my heart is fixed, truſting in the LORD!" I am juſt come from a friend who ſent to acquaint me, that the LANDLORD of the Houſe, who is a Clergyman, will forbid my meetings — But *that* will make them the more *abundant!* — My GOD *commands;* and, in *his ſtrength*, I *muſt* OBEY!"

In another Letter ſhe ſays — "praiſe the LORD with me; help me to praiſe — praiſe him for me! — It is *all* I wiſh, want, or deſire! O for an ETERNITY to praiſe my REDEEMING GOD for what he has delivered me from! He hath clad me with the robe of Salvation, and the garment of praiſe! He bears me continually; keeps me as the apple of his eye; — gives me ſtrength according to my day; magnifies his ſtrength in my weakneſs; — and throughly furniſhes me for every good word and work! I would proclaim his goodneſs upon the houſe-top: — I would give thanks in the great congregation!"

It is with pleaſure ſhe obſerves the bleſſing of GOD upon her endeavours, to prevail upon the two young Ladies, Miſs Jennings and Miſs Allen; part of whoſe houſe ſhe inhabited, to attend the means of grace. She ſays, "My dear * Miſs Jennings and Miſs Allen ſeem now longing for nothing but JESUS: — they love to have me with them. Inſtead of *refuſing*, they now *beſeech* me to meet in their room to pray with them. With their *little faith* it was a *bold* thing in them to take me in! The LORD would have it ſo, and I believe they will be *bleſſed!* Miſs Allen is a moſt amiable girl; twenty years of age. I love her as my own ſoul; and ſhe aſks my advice in every thing. If ſhe leave buſineſs and this town ſhe will be amongſt *gay* people; and ſhe trembles at the thought. She tells me, ſhe "will abide where I abide; *my* GOD ſhall be *her* GOD, and *my* PEOPLE *her* PEOPLE!" I can do nothing for her; but my GOD can do every thing! My habitation is now become pleaſant indeed; ſurely none had ever a more delightful one: — It is a BETHEL! † Hetty Coles has written complaining of my ſilence; and at her mama's deſire I have anſwered it."

She

* Theſe two happy CONVERTS of the *deceaſed* went out of the world truſting in JESUS; and have been enjoying the bleſſedneſs of true believers, in GLORY, ſome years.

† An amiable Niece of the deceaſed, to whom her correſpondence and converſation was greatly bleſſed, and who likewiſe went to glory before her.

She remarks that many under diſtreſs came to her for inſtruction and advice. "I direct them all," ſaith ſhe, "to JESUS — bid them tell him all their troubles, and pour out their hearts before him! I tell them, "his blood cleanſeth from all ſin; — he receives all who come to him; that he is a GOD at hand, and not afar off;" — that I can do nothing for them; — that vain is the help of man;"

What moſt of all afforded her pleaſure, was the advancement ſhe perceived Mr. CLARK was making in the *divine* LIFE. She ſays, "Some of my ſweeteſt moments are with my dear couſin CLARK. The LORD is with us; and we are happy together. I am more and more of opinion that he will be called out to *preach:* the ſcriptures are opened unto him in ſo wonderful a manner, and he is ſo ſimple-hearted! He knows nothing of the names and ſects among us. I have aſked him, "if his heart did not burn to *preach* CHRIST?" He confeſſed it did; and he was only waiting to know the LORD's will! I aſked him, "if he ſhould chooſe the Church of ENGLAND, or to go forth into the *Highways and Hedges?*" He ſaid, "which ever the Lord ſhould ſee fit for him; or to be a diſſenting Miniſter, if it were moſt for the Glory of GOD." The riches and honors of this world are nothing to him! Till laſt night

I was fearful he did heap up treaſures upon earth; becauſe he is ſo reſerved, and never lets one know that he gives any thing away: but he was obliged to confeſs his *poverty* to me, not having enough to pay for the "LIVES *of the* MARTYRS" which he has ordered for us; — for we have all theſe things in common. The family thinks he has ſaved a great deal of money; his father having taken him into partnerſhip.

Pleaſe to let Mr. EVANS ſee this Letter, and beg him to come over and ſee us. I have lent Miſs Jennings my chamber, but no matter — we can accommodate him with a bed rather than he ſhall go home after preaching late.

How ſhall I expreſs my gratitude to my dear couſin MARY when I look round about me and ſee my new furniture; and conſider how *handſome*, yet how *free of* EXPENCE to *me?* My heart glows with gratitude to the Author of my bounties; and fervent petitions that ſhowers of bleſſings ſpiritual and temporal, may be poured down on the dear Inſtrument of helping me to theſe good things!"

AND NOW we ſee this honored handmaid of the LORD an houſe-keeper, with the ſmall income of the intereſt of five hundred pounds: and the LORD gave her faith to believe, that, with this ſmall pittance

tance, and the money ſhe could earn by plain-work, ſhe ſhould be able to ſupport herſelf, the church of God; and once a week, at leaſt, aſſiſt a poor ſiſter with a dinner.

She begins by inviting her *gay* friends to her HOUSE-*warming*; boldly telling them they muſt expect *ſpiritual* fare with their *temporal;* as may be gathered from the following Letter: —

" My dear friend,

I have invited all my friends and relations to my HOUSE-*warming*; and they are all exceedingly *diverted* at the thought! I have given them a *bill-of-fare*, which they want to alter to ſomething more agreeable to their *own taſte*. They will not come if my *poor* friends are with me; it will look ſo much like a METHODIST-*meeting!* But when Mr. EVANS, or a preacher from BATH calls upon me, then I will give them an invitation. — This to me appears moſt prudent, and the LORD's time is beſt.

You muſt *think* I am a wonder unto many. Some, mock and deride, and call me PHARISEE; and bid me read the *fifth of* MATTHEW; and tell me — " I do it *all* to be *ſeen of* MEN." Sunday morning I was at CHURCH. The preacher attacked us from the pulpit, and accuſed us with " *ſtunning them* with the name of JESUS" — *that name* which is *above* EVERY NAME! — But

the more they bid me *hold my* PEACE — the more exceedingly will I CRY OUT!" —

As the BLACKSMITH's Houſe was now too ſmall for the congregation, which increaſed greatly; our friend began to look out for *another*, that might ſerve both for her dwelling, and for the aſſembling of the people for religious worſhip. And a FRIEND offering her a piece of garden-ground to build on, if ſhe would find money, ſhe heſitated not to ſink into the principle of her little fortune, in order to erect a building commodious for the ſervice of the SANCTUARY. Mean while ſhe meets with a *cottage* that would ſerve *both* purpoſes, till the building ſhould be finiſhed; — and quits Miſs Jenning's appartment for it: as may be ſeen by the follow-Letter to her beloved RELATIVE Miſs E. J——n.

" O my dear couſin, where ſhall I begin the never ending praiſes of my GOD! He doth *ſo* bleſs me — *ſo* provide for the unworthieſt, the moſt helpleſs of his creatures! — I am a worm, but GOD is *love*; and *nothing but love!* Glory be to his name — the Goſpel ſtandard is lifted up in my Houſe! THE CAPTAIN of our *Salvation* is ſtrong: — HE receives the *out-caſts*; — " all that " are diſcontented, all that are in *debt* and " have *nothing to pay*; — all that are *diſtreſſ-* " *ed* — all that *will come!*" 1 Sam. xxii. 2.

The

The LORD hath wrought *wonders* for us — ſmitten ROCKS! I have an habitation of *his* providing — my FATHER's gift — a good one — a BETHEL! A little *mean cottage* many would think it: — but it is a GLORIOUS place! JESUS fills the houſe with *his preſence!* It is in the middle of the town: — a good ſituation; — a freſh neighbourhood: — none dare moleſt us; — all at peace, all obliging: — give but four guineas a year; — and have a room at the top, — an *upper-chamber* — a CHURCH, that will hold above an hundred people: — a fire-place and all convenient; — and I have furniſhed it with long benches: — Glory be to GOD, we have had BLESSED meetings in it! The floor and ſtair-caſe are much *worn* and *ſhattered*: but "HE that holdeth up the Heavens and the Earth" can *preſerve* us! — To HIM I would look, and not to the mouldering decaying Tabernacle!

I was directed to this Houſe in a remarkable manner: — knew not where to go, till a few days before the quarter was up; nor indeed, till then, did I ſee myſelf called to act! I thought of this place; and, immediately, ſent a friend whom I teach to read while eating my breakfaſt, to know if it were inhabited. He brought me word — "Only by *Burlers* * in the GARRET, and

* Women employed in the cloathing manufactory.

and the owner would not let it." I waited upon the Gentleman, as ſoon as breakfaſt was finiſhed, and came home *ſo* ſtruck at the *goodneſs* of *my* GOD! — A fine *polite* Gentleman, but *ſo* CIVIL to me! — He told me I ſhould have it, and he would endeavour to put his work out, while I was in the houſe; for I told him, I believed it would not be long ere I could ſuit myſelf in a ſtill more agreeable place! I begged him not to put himſelf to any expence — I would take it as it was. But, indeed, he has, unknown to me, put himſelf to more expence than I ſhall pay him *rent* for. It joins to his dwelling-houſe: — I told him, I ſhould be a *noiſy* neighbour; — and all about the MEETINGS; — and invited him, his family! &c. &c.

I have been at no expence. I find where it is not given, it is not required. When, my dear couſin, will you and your dear ſiſter, come and viſit my little, ſweet, delightful cottage? I have all things to enjoy! No garden, and therefore not the *expence* of one; — can view my NEIGHBOUR'S when I pleaſe: — have no eſtate, no field; but from a little window can ſee *delightful* fields and meadows that my heavenly father has given to others for *their* portion; and I will adore him becauſe he has given HIMSELF to *me* for *my* portion — "my Beloved is *mine*, and I am *his!*" — can ſay no more;

— have

—have a houſe full of friends from BRADFORD come to keep holiday — all young, and, I truſt, ſaying "*We would ſee* JESUS!" — JESUS be with you continually! — is the prayer of

Your unworthy friend,

J. COOK."

As our friend could get no preaching in her own houſe on LORD's days; ſhe was not aſhamed to take a bit of bread in her pocket, and walk, with her poor neighbours, from village to village, to hear the goſpel in the ESTABLISHMENT: and between the ſervices of the CHURCH, ſit down on a bank by the ſide of a brook, in the road; drinking of the purling ſtream, and eating their bread with joy and ſingleneſs of heart, praiſing the LORD.

Thus conſcientious and faithful in *ſmall* things, as well as *great*, our dear friend walked continually in the preſence of GOD, as did ABRAHAM; — or like MOSES, who "refuſed to be called the ſon of PHARAOH's "daughter; chooſing rather to ſuffer af- "fliction with the people of GOD, than to "enjoy the pleaſures of ſin, for a ſeaſon: "eſteeming the reproach of CHRIST greater "riches than the treaſures of Egypt; for "he had reſpect unto the recompence of "reward." — The dear *deceaſed* had alſo reſpect unto the recompence of reward which none but GOD can give; for it is only

only by "acknowledging him in all our ways," that we can expect, "he will direct our paths." And, in time, she experienced the fulfilment of the promise — "Whoso honoreth me, I will honor:" For the Church of GOD, abundantly prospered in the *upper-chamber* she had dedicated to public worship: — so that she was soon obliged to quit her little cottage as a dwelling house, being obliged to prop the beams of the upper floor; they proving too weak for the weight of the people who usually assembled.

The inconvenience attending this increasing congregation, was the occasion of her removal, once more, to Miss J——n's at BRISTOL. During her residence with that valuable relation, she accomplished the design, she had previously formed, of *building* a HOUSE with a ROOM for the more convenient accommodation of the increasing number of people who heard the WORD GLADLY: — to effect which she sank near sixty pounds of her small fortune.

This work of *faith* and labour of *love* did not go unrewarded. For soon after she began to build, the LORD put it into the heart of Mr. TURNER to make her proposals of marriage; which she took one year to consider of, and know the will of GOD concerning it.

AND

AND here it may be no unprofitable digreſſion, to give the pious reader a ſpecimen of the LORD's teachings, and her faithfulneſs to what ſhe thought the will of GOD concerning this marriage, from a JOURNAL found among her papers.

" Sunday night — This evening, I was exceedingly ſtruck with T. T——'s propoſals of marriage. For a conſiderable time I have thought I ſhould be permitted to live *ſingle*. — My Maker is my Huſband; but may *his* WILL be done! — Found great liberty and freedom to ſpeak to him about SPIRITUAL things. — The LORD is wonderfully with him: I do not know a more *amiable* CHRISTIAN! I ſee I have nothing to do, but to wait upon my condeſcending heavenly FATHER, to reveal his will to me: — Glory be to him, I find none of my own! He hath made me willing to ſubmit to Him, in the day of his power!

Monday evening — This has been a bleſſed day — had much communion with GOD: He will be with me and bleſs me; — but I know not in what way! The important affair — much on my mind; but it does not diſtreſs or diſturb my peace; for I find a *ſweet* LOOKING UNTO JESUS for ALL. — Laſt night, at our parting, how earneſtly did my dear friend pray unto the LORD, that we might be *entirely* devoted to him; —

him ; — be *lively* in his ſervice, yea be a *living* SACRIFICE !

The chief argument he uſed to me, was, he ſaw it his duty to be ſettled in life, that he might promote the Glory of GOD, by eſpouſing his Cauſe to his utmoſt ability. *That* DEADNESS among my married friends, does not diſcourage me. If the LORD call me to this way of life, He will bleſs it ; and I may keep up the ſame meetings, and be more uſeful ; as I ſhall have more talents committed to my charge. Friends, will be alarmed : but will it not be for the *glory* of GOD. for me to be, as it were, an *example* to chriſtians, to chooſe a *Child of* GOD, an *Heir of* GLORY though he has but little of this world's goods ? If it be my heavenly father's choice, it will be better for me than a more exalted ſtation : — His will be done ! I ſhall partake of the Goſpel feaſt ſtill — never never ſhall be caſt off ! The LORD will, I am aſſured, in *his own* time, which is the *beſt* the *right* time, ſpeak, and his ſervant ſhall hear — will with a ſmall ſtill voice ſay " *This is the way walk in it !*"

I never was calmer, eaſier or happier ! The LORD is with me of a truth ! We had a ſweet meeting for ſinging : the LORD was preſent. O, how doth He condeſcend to bleſs his worthleſs creature ! He gave me remarkable courage in reproving a dear friend,

friend, for ſpeaking againſt religious zeal and frequent meetings: and afterwards I was tempted, as uſual, to think I had done wrong: but thoſe words came exceedingly ſweet to me, "Is any merry" among you, "let him ſing Pſalms;" — and again, "You ſhall reprove even Kings for my ſake!"

April the ſeventeenth, 1765 — O, what things, what wonderful things, have I heard and ſeen to day! BLESSED SPIRIT, help me to relate! Surely, the LORD hath appeared to a poor worm! This morning I fell on my face before the Lord, deſiring clearer views of CHRIST — who he was, and what he had done, — breathed out my ſoul to him, — and, ſurely, it was from the abundant manifeſtations of his Love thereto! It came upon my mind — "The LORD's communing with ABRAHAM." — I begged, if it were his bleſſed will, he would permit his vile duſt and aſhes, to aſk concerning the *change* of her CONDITION. — A child aſks the conſent of her father; and I aſk, rejoicing that my *heavenly* FATHER knoweth all things. I begged that he would, in his own good time, reveal his will concerning it, if it were for his glory: but if not, and that my face muſt be covered, I beſought that I might not be permitted to take a wrong ſtep: I deſired to choſe nothing for myſelf!"

As ſoon as her houſe was finiſhed, ſhe returned; and reſumed her kind offices to the poor, the ſick, the afflicted, and the CHURCH of GOD, at TROWBRIDGE: — to whom ſhe was a ſpiritual nurſing-Mother, in providing miniſters to break the bread of LIFE to their ſouls. And after ſhe had poſſeſſed her new habitation near a year; in which time ſhe had duly conſidered Mr. TURNER's propoſals, and thought them to be from the LORD; and meeting likewiſe with the general approbation of her friends and relations, ſhe accepted him: — and the marriage was ſolemnized, on the ninth of Feb. 1766, with a mutual affection, that death itſelf could not diſſolve.

I can now no longer deſcribe Miſs COOK, and it may be thought by ſome, to be a difficult taſk, to repreſent Mrs. TURNER as the *chief* SUBJECT of the ſequel of theſe MEMOIRS, without detracting from Mr. TURNER's worth: — but it muſt be obſerved, that her pious zeal was no ſmall excellence in Mr. TURNER's eyes: and that, in the union he formed with her, he had not the leaſt deſire to quench it; but rather was concerned to cheriſh and promote it.

There was a reverſe in the COMPLEXION of the happy pair, — whereby they were mutually uſeful to each other: and mutually, according to their reſpective abilities, laid themſelves out for the glory of GOD and

and the good of his CHURCH. And ſo ſtrong are the affections of the mournful ſurvivor to the memory of his deceaſed conſort, that I am perſuaded — though perhaps he may be ſomewhat diſpleaſed by an apology on the preſent occaſion, — he can never ſee theſe MEMOIRS in a light too ſtrong, or too expreſſive of the WORTH and EXCELLENCY of her whom his ſoul loved!

I therefore proceed to obſerve, that as ſoon after the ſolemnization of their marriage as was convenient, ſhe quitted her own habitation, appropriating it ſolely to the worſhip of GOD — where, after the agreeable revolution on her part, ſhe had the additional pleaſure, of ſeeing a continued ſucceſſion of precious ſouls, brought to a ſaving acquaintance with the LORD JESUS CHRIST.

The new relation required attention to the duties peculiar to it: which ſhe entered upon and filled up with the greateſt eaſe and affability; — ſupporting a vein of SPIRITUALITY as ſtrong as ever. Mr. TURNER having juſt now opened a large ſhop, ſhe perceived it was her duty to add to her ſmall fortune, by taking ſuch a part in his buſineſs as ſhe was capable of: — And a little practice, with her abilities, ſoon made her ſervice very conſiderable. For ten years, ſhe was a laborious ſhop-woman, — beſides keeping the books, and attending to

the buſineſs of the counting-houſe; which ſhe did, with a punctuality and exactneſs as well as diſpatch, that would do honor to any CLERK in the Kingdom.

How contrary, in this part of her character, doth ſhe appear, to many of *our ſex*— who, with a ſmall fortune bring to their huſbands a great burthen; and by their *idle* viſits, received and paid, waſte that time, which GOD and their *families* have a juſt claim to! But Mrs. TURNER gave up only her HANDS to the *world*:— Her HEART, was ſtill as *devoted to* GOD and His *ſervice*, as ever. And even her new connection and employment of life was improved to the glory of GOD, and the good of her ſoul, and the ſoul of him to whom ſhe was now united in *double* ties:— as may be ſeen by her LETTERS, and eſpecially by the following extract from a JOURNAL, written ſix months after her marriage.—

—" Auguſt the twelfth, 1766.—According to cuſtom, in my Huſband's abſence, looking over his books and papers, I find the order, the regularity and method he makes uſe of, a great bleſſing to my ſoul. Who am I, to be ſo highly favoured — to be united, to be made one with ſo dear a child of GOD! The GIFT leads me to the GIVER: O my GOD, how great thy goodneſs to me! Thou haſt opened my blind eyes, thou haſt convinced me of ſin,

and

and of a SAVIOUR's *righteouſneſs!* LORD, they are *great* things thou haſt done for me: — ten thouſand thanks be to thee, thou ADORABLE GOD! What could move thee to it? — Methinks, I am loſt in wonder, love and praiſe! Glory be to GOD, I can ſay — LORD, thou knoweſt all things, thou knoweſt I WOULD *love* thee! — My ſoul, at ſeaſons, longs after this more than the panting Hart for the water-brooks! O that I knew more of thee; that thou wouldſt manifeſt thyſelf to me more than ever! I want to know nothing but JESUS CHRIST, and him crucified — the Chiefeſt among ten thouſand!

A glimpſe of my dear LORD; of his amazing love, his wonderful condeſcenſion, long-ſuffering and forbearance; makes me worſhip, wonder and adore! But ſtill, I ſin againſt him — am ungrateful and unkind! Forbid it, deareſt Lord — thou only canſt forbid it to purpoſe — that ever I ſhould ſo offend again! O that, from this day, I might be entirely devoted to thee: my heart more warmed with thy love, more *lively* in thy ſervice and worſhip — thy cauſe, thy people, thy intereſt, *nearer* to me, *more dear*, than ever!

LORD, I cannot live unleſs thou permitteſt me to love thee: — take away this coldneſs, this unfeelingneſs, and give me a heart gowing with LOVE: — remove PRE-

JUDICE againſt any of thy dear people, of any denomination; and may I love them becauſe they are *thy* PEOPLE; and not becauſe they are amiable, lovely, or adorned with gifts! LORD, I am a *witneſs* thou receiveſt the *vileſt*, the moſt *unlovely* — for I OBTAINED MERCY! Every thing reminds me of the amazing goodneſs of my GOD — and of *my own* ingratitude and unkindneſs! LORD, how canſt thou put up with ſuch behaviour from me; and bleſs me ſtill in ſuch a manner, in my *goings out* and *comings in* — in my *riſing up* and *lying down!*

LORD, thou haſt withheld no good thing! Since the day — the happy day thou didſt call me to come up to thy work, to the repairing of thy houſe; how haſt thou multiplied and increaſed my goods! Before that time, it was all *vanity*, all *vexation*, all *diſappointment* — nothing anſwered my expectation, — "*death was in the pot*" — ALL was embittered! I wanted to enjoy *earthly* things; but they were airy phantoms; *ſhadows* I could never *graſp!* — that ever the LORD ſhould look upon ſuch a wretch, in ſuch a wretched ſtate, and bleſs her — and give her the deſire of her heart, and make her the happieſt of mortals — ALL *this*, and HEAVEN *too!* —

SING — my dear huſband, my pleaſant companion, my bleſſed partner for life, — *ſing* HALLELUJAH — *praiſe the* LORD! —

Who

Who ſo favoured, who ſo bleſſed, ſo indulged ſo dandled on the knee of our heavenly father, as we! I have but this one thing to deſire of the LORD, that I may ſee him all the days of my life, and dwell with him for ever! And YOU, the BELOVED of my ſoul, are included in every wiſh of my heart! — Whatever I want for *myſelf*, I beg the ſame for *thee!* Glory be to GOD, he hath united us in and for himſelf — and NONE — Men nor Devils can put us aſunder, for ever, and for ever!

" THE LORD JEHOVAH REIGNETH GOD OVER ALL, BLESSED FOR EVERMORE!" — O let our right hands forget their cunning, our tongue cleave to the roof of our mouth, if we ever forget to ſpeak of the goodneſs of the LORD in the Land of the living! O my GOD, what great things haſt thou done for me, in *temporals*, this laſt year! and doſt — adored be thy goodneſs, — add *thy* BLESSING to our increaſe — make all BLESSINGS to our *ſouls!* Glory be to GOD, our meat is not a ſnare: — glory be to him, I know both how to be *abaſed*, and how to *abound;* and in every ſtate, therewith to be content!

Praiſed be the LORD, he ſpreads our table in the ſight of our enemies! Bleſſed be his name, who hath ſeparated and made us *come out from among them*: — and is become *our* FATHER, and made us *his* SON, and *his* DAUGHTER! — But, if he be *our* FATHER,

(and

(and glory be to his grace, HE *is*,) then, where is *our* OBEDIENCE? — O my *leanneſs*, my *leanneſs!* — methinks, I long to obey and love as *angels* do above! — and yet come ſo dreadfully ſhort, that in every thing I ſin! O that I *hated* ſin! O that I loved HOLINESS more; — were more like my *dear incarnate* GOD — more transformed into his *likeneſs* — had *His* IMAGE more plainly ſtamped upon my ſoul! "LORD, thou canſt work, and none ſhall let — Let it be unto thy ſervant, according to thy word, on which thou haſt cauſed me to hope!"

O the numberleſs mercies of this laſt year! — pardon, my deareſt LORD, pardon my numerous ſins: waſh me in thy blood, cloath me with thy righteouſneſs, and ſanctify me with thy Spirit! — Bind me to the horns of the altar — to JESUS: — may my ears, *both* ears, be bored to his delightful ſervice! — And do thou make me a faithful, kind, and affectionate wife, to the *beſt* of HUSBANDS: — when he rejoices may I rejoice with him, and increaſe his joy in the Lord; — and when he *mourns* — mourns for *his ſins*, for the *withdrawing of his* GOD; — we will lie at the feet of JESUS together, and not let him go until he bleſs us! Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Mrs. TURNER took care, likewiſe, that her new duties and occupations in life ſhould

ſhould not render her leſs uſeful in the cauſe of GOD, or leſs devoted to the ſervice of precious ſouls; by having this maxim of the wiſe man, at all times, for her rule, "Whatſoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might." — She let no moment or opportunity ſlip, that might be employed for the glory of GOD, or the good of her neighbour: — and ſo, by uſing every moment to the beſt purpoſes, ſhe found time for the diſcharge of every duty, the LORD in his providence called her to. And it can ſcarcely be conceived, by perſons unacquainted with this highly favoured handmaid of the LORD, how *exemplarily* ſhe filled up her public ſtation: — how ſuited in her addreſs, to perſons of every cláſs in life; and how careful ſhe was to watch for the *eaſy hour*, or the ſeaſon in which the word might be *fitly* SPOKEN that reſpected ETERNAL THINGS: — in which ſhe knew every ſoul was *deeply intereſted*, though few had love enough for their own ſouls to be *careful about them.*

FEW came to her ſhop without having a word of advice, comfort, or encouragement in the way of peace: — and if they would not take her advice, or treated her with contempt, ſhe would bear patiently with their ill treatment; like her divine Exemplar, ſaying, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do!" And

ſhe

ſhe did not ſhew her love to poor ſinners in *word* only, but in *deed* alſo. For great acts of kindneſs, with much temporal loſs to herſelf, has ſhe voluntarily offered her enemies, perſecutors and ſlanderers; and has often taken long and tireſome walks, and expenſive journies, for the good of individuals: — as well as the great expence of money, pain and trouble, ſhe and her valuable pious partner have been at, for the proſperity of different churches; and for the propagating the goſpel in the various places about the country: — where there was ſcarcely the leaſt appearance of *ſpiritual* religion to be found.

It is ſaid, "the integrity of the upright ſhall guide them:" and Mrs. TURNER's integrity to GOD in not ſpending precious time unprofitably; and faithfulneſs to her fellow-creatures, in taking every opportunity to counſel them for their good, guided her into the moſt eaſy and expeditious methods of trade imaginable. For thoſe who liked her RELIGIOUS converſation, gave her the worth of her goods without uſing unneceſſary words; and thoſe that did not reliſh *ſpiritual* things, but liked her *temporals*, took the goods off her hands as ſoon as poſſible, in order to be out of the hearing of her good advice. And when tradeſmen came to ſhew their patterns of printed linens &c. — in order to ſave precious *time*, and be free of

of the ſin of uſing idle or unneceſſary *words*, —ſhe choſe the firſt pattern that ſtruck her eye; if the cloth &c. were good and proper: —and generally found thoſe linens were moſt pleaſing to her cuſtomers; —the LORD not permitting her pure motives to be attended with loſs. And many have dealt at her ſhop on account of the privilege of *ſpiritual* converſation, who will have reaſon to praiſe the LORD, through the endleſs ages of eternity, that he *inclined* their hearts to go thither. If a ſtranger ſent to her ſhop, ſhe would generally ſend a Letter with her bill-of-parcels, relating to the *beſt things*; — a ſpecimen of which I have before me, ſent to a Lady of my acquaintance, bearing date, June 24, 1768.—

" We are extremely obliged, to you, dear Mrs. G——n, for your kind favour: —In return, what ſhall we, what *can* we wiſh you, but "*ſpiritual bleſſings in heavenly places in* CHRIST JESUS?" May your ſoul be quickened and made alive to GOD; and may the life you now live, be by the faith of the SON OF GOD! *Time*, with all its trifling concerns, is paſſing away quicker than we can expreſs it. The *body*, we ſhall ſoon drop in the grave; the *ſoul*, will exiſt for ever — in happineſs inexpreſſible inconceivable: or unutterable miſery — without remedy, without hope, without end.

ALL

ALL muſt appear before the judgment-ſeat of CHRIST: and how guilty, how condemned, how muſt every mouth be *ſtopped*, when we conſider the ſtrictneſs, the ſpirituality of the LAW—the omniſcience of the JUDGE, and the faithfulneſs of the *witneſs!* CONSCIENCE will then ſay GUILTY — *verily* GUILTY!—The LAW requires truth in the inward parts; and our hearts are deceitful above all things! The LAW requires us to love GOD with all our hearts, and ſoul, and ſtrength:—and we, by *nature*, are lying *in* THE WICKED ONE. A *curſe* is pronounced upon thoſe, "who *continue not* in ALL THINGS written in the *book of the* LAW *to do them*!"—

What ſhall we then do? WHITHER ſhall we go for help but to JESUS CHRIST?—who came "to ſeek and to ſave them that are LOST!" He ſaves to the uttermoſt all who ſee their *want*, and deſire HELP and HEALING from him! If you are wretched and miſerable, and find all the pleaſures and gaities that can be invented cannot relieve you,—you experience, what, glory be to GOD, I have experienced before you! Diſappointment from the *creatures*, and diſtreſs in looking to THEM, *drove me to my* GOD. Adored be his goodneſs, He has graciouſly relieved, bleſſed, and made me happy in HIMSELF as the only *Good!* My dear Madam, he has more than *one* bleſſing

bleſſing to beſtow. Venture upon him *juſt as you are*, guilty and weak — He will do *every thing* for you!

Happy ſhall I be to ſee you at TROWBRIDGE, and deſcribe this *lovely* SAVIOUR to you! — I have written theſe lines in haſte, it being market day, and I am buſy in my ſhop. — Pardon the freedom of a poor *ſtranger*, who by the grace of GOD is made a lover of *ſouls*, — and deſires to approve herſelf their faithful ſervant in JESUS — and particularly, Dear Madam,

Your's,

14 lb. Sugar, 6s. JOANNA TURNER."

All her company, whether in the ſhop, kitchen or parlour, were generally treated with the ſame SPIRITUAL entertainment; not to the excluſion of TEMPORAL refreſhment: for the poor and needy, the pilgrim and the ſtranger, were often made welcome to ſuch proviſion as her houſe afforded; — where, after ſhe married, there was a *ſufficiency*, but not before. For oftentimes, when a houſekeeper in her *ſingle* ſtate, ſhe went *faſting* the chief part of a day, and lived on *bread and water* many days; in order to ſupply the wants of ſome poor CHRISTIANS. But now, being bleſſed with a huſband of the ſame mind with herſelf, a deviſer of LIBERAL things: — who not only roſe early and late took reſt, to gain a ſufficiency for the ſupport of GOD's houſe and

poor; but was equally willing with herſelf to *beſtow the fruits* of his care and induſtry: having a HEART as much *devoted to the cauſe of* GOD; and, conſequently, has an equal title to the eſteem and admiration of every diſcerning chriſtian, as his dear wife had; — though HIS part of the work was more laborious, and leſs refreſhing to the ſoul; — but thus, fellow-labourers together in the LORD's vineyard, as well as true yoke-fellows in the marriage-union; with hands and hearts united in the glorious cauſe of CHRIST — they found a *ſufficiency*, as I ſaid before, of ſimple wholeſome food, dreſſed in a plain way, and ſent to table in a decent comfortable manner. Not garniſhed or ſet off with unneceſſary trouble or expence, for they aimed to be uniform *throughout* — in their dreſs, converſation, table and furniture. — All was *ſufficient* for the end deſigned, but not *ſuperfluous*; — all was *neat*, *decent*, *clean*, and *comfortable*, but not EXTRAVAGANT.

And the LORD ſo ordered and bleſſed her ſpiritual converſation, behaviour, and hoſpitality to ſtrangers and pilgrims, that ſhe has been the honoured inſtrument of of many *converſions* in this way. And not a few, who, at firſt, ſlighted and hated her RELIGIOUS diſcourſe, ſeeing, in a courſe of years, that her godly converſation was coupled with a becoming demeanour towards

wards GOD and MAN; — have ſince, as much *courted* her converſation, as they, at firſt, *deſpiſed* and *hated* it.

The firſt year of their marriage produced a remarkable trial of *faith* and *patience*; as they ſuffered a conſiderable LOSS: — their HOUSE being *blown up with* GUN-POWDER by the careleſſneſs of a ſervant-boy, who was burnt to death by it. But they had reaſon to ſing of mercy, as well as judgment: — for juſt before the EXPLOSION, having bolted their doors and windows and extinguiſhed their fires, to prepare for bed; they were going into a room, where their lives would have been in imminent danger — but an unuſual noiſe in the ſtreets prevented. A woman of *ill-fame* was met with by ſome of the principal inhabitants of the TOWN: who were patroling the ſtreets that night, being threatened with the ravages of an outrageous MOB on account of the high price of bread: and as they were dragging her to the houſe of correction, ſhe made ſuch an uncommon noiſe with her ſhrieks and cries, as happily drew their attention and detained them below ſtairs! — *That* MOMENT the powder took fire! The pannels fell from the wainſcots! Their candle was blown down and extinguiſhed! The bars and bolts of their windows and doors flew out! — and made way for their inſtant eſcape into the STREET to enquire into the

occaſion of the noiſe — not knowing it was their OWN HOUSE *ſolely* — but imagining *the whole* TOWN to be blown up by the RIOTERS! — Notwithſtanding the tile and glaſs flew thick about them, they received no hurt to their PERSONS: — and many of their neighbours being providentially collected near the door, immediate aſſiſtance was given. And a curtain lead flying from their window through that of an oppoſite houſe, where the KEEPER of the FIRE-ENGINE ſlept, awaked him; — ſo that he was quickly ready with the ENGINE, and the FIRE was ſoon extinguiſhed.

THE HOUSE, which they rented, was much injured; but the FURNITURE eſcaped beyond expectation. — Their ſhop-goods were not ſo much damaged as might have been expected; or would have certainly been the caſe, had not PROVIDENCE ſo ordered it, that thoſe things that were buried in the rubbiſh that fell through the houſe, were, in general, ſuch as were well ſecured with paper, &c. — THE DRAWERS in the ſhop were but half ſhook out of their places; and nothing materially damaged but a quantity of *Salt*, which was bought off in a day or two, for ſalting *Hay*; it being a wet * ſeaſon

* The Compiler of theſe MEMOIRS thinks it may be uſeful to note here; that ſhe was well acquainted with a farmer, who made uſe of this experiment of ſprinkling ſalt over every laying of hay; as they made a Stack of Hay that had been greatly damaged by ſucceſſive rains; but being ſeaſoned in this manner he found it prove very palatable and profitable to his *ſheep*, the ſucceeding ſpring.

ſeaſon for the latter crop: ſo that they had great cauſe to ſing of the loving-kindneſs of the LORD, who had preſerved their LIVES! And though *great* INCONVENIENCE, and *ſome* LOSS, reſulted from the alarming event! yet they were followed by ſuch ſuitable MERCIES as excited their attention, prevented murmuring, and diſpoſed them to gratitude; as will be ſeen in an extract from a LETTER to Miſs B——n on the occaſion: —

— "PRAISE the LORD, my friend! Praiſe him, O my ſoul! Ye HOLY CHURCH throughout the World, acknowledge Him *your* GOD! All the praiſes of earth and heaven, of ſaints and angels —

—"ALL are too mean to ſpeak His worth,
Too mean to ſet our JESUS forth!"

GOD IS LOVE — *nothing but* LOVE: in every diſpenſation of his providence *the ſame!* Glory be to HIM for what *He has given us* — HIMSELF! Bleſſed be his holy name, our cup is full — runneth over! "ALL *are ours!*" — Loſſes, Croſſes, diſpenſed tenderly and in love, like as a father pitieth his own children — *Theſe* are our greateſt BLESSINGS! The world calls them AFFLICTIONS; but GLORY BE TO GOD *for what he has* TAKEN! a little of our STUFF; that, bleſſed be his name, our Hearts *were not ſet upon:* and if it be for HIS GLORY for us to be deprived of it in this *awful affecting*

way, HIS *will* be done! "ALL *is well*" — all for *good!* and I muſt *lie at his dear feet and* ADORE HIM FOR ALL!

O my friend, this Providence has been *ſo ſweetened*! — the EVERLASTING ARMS underneath us! I *know* — I *felt* them! Who would not wiſh for his conſolations to abound, as HE has *promiſed* and I have *found* them, in *this ſeaſon of* AFFLICTION! Is there ſuch enjoyment in a fulneſs of Creature-comforts, as in one Moment's *communion with* GOD? If I were ſtripped of ALL *below*, with *all this* PEACE and HEAVEN *too;* methinks I could *ſmile*, becauſe JESUS is *mine*, and I am *His* — yea, if all NATURE were *diſſolving!* "I wait all my appointed time till my change come," but *wiſh not* for it! HIS WILL be done, who doth ALL THINGS *well!* "HE will never leave nor forſake!" HE is a "BROTHER *born for* ADVERSITY" — loveth at *all* TIMES! But there is no *adverſity* in HIS *preſence*, but a FULNESS OF *joy!* Praiſed and adored be his name, I ſpeak that I *know!* Tell the people of his doings, my dear; lift up your voice like a trumpet — THE LORD HE IS GOD! THE LORD HE IS GOD!

It has made a deep impreſſion: — yet I cannot view it but as *the loving-kindneſs of* THE LORD! Every thing of a *diſtreſſing* nature ſeems hid from my ſight! My and

my

my dear Huſband's LIFE ſeems as given us *anew!* Oh that we may be made NEW-CREATURES! Surely, we are ſpared for the *glory* of *our* GOD! — and the *ſparing of our* LIVES was more to HIS *praiſe*, at preſent, ſpeaking after the manner of men — than the *deſtruction* of them would have been! The Enemies might have ſhot out their lips and reproached, ſaying, "*He truſted in* GOD that HE would *deliver him!* — And many of the dear people of GOD might have been *ſtumbled* at it!

Glory be to GOD — "We have paſſed through the FIRE and it *has not hurt us*; not a Hair of our Heads has been ſinged!" — our STUFF preſerved in as wonderful a manner; for "HE *careth for us!*" We ſtood ſtill, and *His arm* brought DELIVERANCE: and a *great* DELIVERANCE it is in the ſight of the HEATHEN — the HEATHEN tell of his doings; and aſcribe to HIS PROVIDENCE, *our preſervation!*"

But after this wonderful preſervation of *life* and *property*, the LORD was pleaſed to try their faith and patience a little further: having firſt prepared them for the ſtroke by the rich cordials of his peculiar manifeſtations and abundant conſolations. For the inceſſant *heavy* RAINS which fell while the houſe was partly uncovered by the explo-ſion proved more pernicious to their goods, than the FIRE; as they were obliged to move

move them from place to place out of the wet. And *then*, her ſtrong faith began to ſtagger a little, and ſhe thought — " if the LORD be not diſpleaſed with us, why doth he continue to ſmite us with STROKE *upon* STROKE ?" Yet ſhe was enabled ſtill to determine, with JOB, to " truſt in HIM though he ſhould ſlay her :" — and ſhe ſaid to herſelf — " perhaps, we are ſet up as a *ſign* to the houſe of ISRAEL, or an example of *ſuffering* and of *patience*, like JOB : — and if ſo, if *others* are to be benefited by our ſufferings — HIS *will*, in all things, be done !"

As a farther trial of their *faith* and *patience* the LORD permitted, in his providence, that they ſhould rather go backward than forward, in WORLDLY things, for two or three years — but not in RELIGIOUS : for when they came to conſider how they ſhould retrieve their loſſes, they mutually determined to ſave from *themſelves*, not from *the cauſe of* GOD, and therefore they applied more cloſely to buſineſs than ever ; doing themſelves, each, two or three peoples work in the ſhop, by day ; and after the ſervants were gone to bed, they ſat up half the night, ſettling their accounts &c.

Having been thus tried for a while and found faithful ; the LORD, again, bleſſed the labour of their hands : — RESTORED what they had *loſt*, and *increaſed* what he had RESTORED. Nothing, however impor-

portant,

portant, of a *ſecular* nature, could divert the attention of our friend from the *intereſt of* CHRIST. With pleaſure ſhe ſaw the congregation continually increaſe, and the work of *grace* increaſing in many hearts. — Mr. CLARK continued ſolidly devoted to GOD, and the preaching of the Goſpel. His preaching was abundantly bleſſed to her ſoul, and to the increaſe of converts to JESUS: and the word of GOD did ſo prevail under his miniſtry, that the preaching houſe was overthronged. The proſpect becoming ſo promiſing of a permanent work, our dear friend, with her huſband, having been enabled of the LORD to purchaſe and fit up a convenient dwelling for themſelves; indulged the idea of building a commodious place of worſhip. They foreſaw, by the late favourable turn given to their affairs, that, if it ſhould be neceſſary, they could with propriety take up money at intereſt for that purpoſe.

They ſoon enquired after and had the offer of a piece of ground, and received the eſtimate of the building. But their pure motives for building; their teachings from the Word, Spirit and Providence of GOD; — their trials, difficulties, and the bleſſed ſucceſs they met with in the work, will beſt be made manifeſt, by the following extract from a JOURNAL on the occaſion, dated 1770. —

— " For

— "For ſome time paſt, more than a year, it has been much on my dear huſband's heart and mine, to *build an* HOUSE *for the* LORD. We ourſelves being in great proſperity, our own Houſe finiſhed comfortably and beyond our enlarged deſires, bleſſed in our baſket and our ſtore; having gained in trade, laſt year, enough to give us encouragement, beſides living in ſo comfortable a way; we conſidered, that as, in a few years, if the LORD be pleaſed to continue our health and trade, it would be made up again; — it were beſt for us to devote a little more time and labour to the ſervice of that GOD who gives us every thing — whoſe we are, and all that we have!

In Auguſt, ſomething likely offered; a proper ſpot of ground for ſize and ſituation; but there were ſome difficulties to encounter with which were ſoon overcome: the LORD making our way proſperous, and cauſing my Huſband — who is naturally *timorous*, to be quite *courageous* in the affair. *Sometimes* he ſtrengthened his heart by animating his ſpirits; and, at *other times*, by applying ſuitable words of SCRIPTURE, juſt in the time of need. For not ſeeing how to act in regard to purchaſing the ground, whether he ſhould give the ſum demanded, and crying to the LORD for direction, it came upon his mind to open the

BIBLE

BIBLE for a word of advice; which he did at the 1 Chronicles xxi. 24. — "And King "David ſaid to Ornan, nay, but I will ve- "rily buy it for the full price: for I will "not take that which is thine for the "LORD, nor offer burnt offerings without "coſt." — This was an encouraging word, a light to our feet: and in faith, the ſame day, glory be to GOD, we made the purchaſe!

We cannot think of *begging* for this ſacred work, as it is a cuſtom odious to us; nor do we ſee it right to refuſe the free-will offerings of our brethren, in any meaſure, that the Lord may incline them. — Before we layed the foundation, Mrs. J——n of Caſtle-ſtreet, BRISTOL, gave my huſband a guinea towards it; which ſeemed an encouragement from the LORD to proceed.

The foundation was layed Oct. 25, 1770, by my Huſband, and two other friends. At firſt, the brethren did not ſeem to feel much concerned to *help* in the LORD's building. By *this*, we ſaw it was *our* happy privilege; and very frequently, with adoration, cried — Why *we*, LORD, why *we!* but thought it our duty to acquaint the CHURCH, when aſſembled at the Lord's Table, what we had done, and what we were about to do; and begged their *prayers!* The LORD was pleaſed to *ſmile* upon us;

us; and *then*, our love and fellowſhip was *great:* and conſtant *prayer* has been made for the proſperity of the work, by every individual, I believe, from that time!

Our honoured MINISTER is much bleſſed, encouraged and ſtrengthened, by that zeal and love the LORD is pleaſed to beſtow upon us!

TOBIAS and SANBALLAT, the Devil, the world and the fleſh, will endeavour to obſtruct the work; but, in the name and ſtrength of JESUS we *fight* and *build!* Some little alterations from the *firſt plan*, unforeſeen things, perplexed two or three times, by which we burdened ourſelves; — but ALL was for *good!* — brought it all to the *firſt plan* again; which I cannot but admire, and ſee, by it, that they are only our *deviations* from the DIVINE CONDUCT that bring ſorrow. Glory be to GOD, my ſoul was *fixed truſting in the* LORD — for the comelineſs, conveniency and beauty of the place! My eye is ſingle to pleaſe him whom my ſoul loveth; and, in a meaſure, I had light to ſee it would be ſo: and HE would make it to pleaſe others without *our aiming* it! But as it is, bleſſed be the Lord! — my *duty* to pleaſe my huſband; it is *my delight* to have him pleaſed: ſo I acquieſce in this work with whatever He deſires, unleſs I think it contrary to the glory or command of GOD.

My

My beloved ſiſter in the LORD, dear Miſs E. J——n of BRISTOL, who is highly favoured with great nearneſs to Him, encourages much in the work — in *ſpeaking* encourages; and, I am aſſured, in *praying* for it; and gave my huſband five guineas towards it. EBENEZER — hitherto the LORD hath *helped* us! and bleſſed be his name, we have not been in the leaſt diſcouraged ever ſince we began; but exceedingly ſtrengthned, animated and bleſſed! Many of our dear Church have thrown in their mite into the treaſury, at different times.

I am aſhamed, abaſed, at my own unworthineſs and vileneſs! My manner of doing things is a conſtant thorn in the fleſh; but, glory be to GOD, it only ſinks me lower at his bleſſed feet! The LORD condeſcends to ſtrengthen my faith in him, and my love to him, by an account of the manner of Mr. WHITFIELD's death: I long to imitate his moſt *exemplary* ſervants! But oh! how ſhort my comings! yet the precious precious "blood of CHRIST cleanſeth from all ſin!"

An unkind Letter from a Chriſtian Friend at this time concerning the building, much diſtreſſed us: but having occaſion to take a little medicine which confined me to my room, I deſired and expected the LORD's gracious preſence; and, glory be

to his name, he came; and ſweetly overcame my fears, cares and all unbelief! I had ſuch freedom to pour out my ſoul, ſuch ſpiritual deſires as were truly delightful! Glory be to my TRIUNE GOD!

— Jan. 1771. O the wonderful *goodneſs* of GOD! ſurely, nothing is too heard for HIM! On taking ſtock, as is cuſtomary once a year, found ſuch an increaſe as *aſtoniſhed* my dear Huſband and me! We could ſcarcely believe for joy! We fell before our dear LORD! adored, praiſed, and deſired *all* might be devoted and given up to HIS SACRED USE AND SERVICE! — Saw with wonder the plain path of duty made for us — could not heſitate a moment about our call to the *ſacred* work! O the condeſcenſion of our GOD, to honour ſuch inſignificant worms of the duſt as we! And will GOD, in very deed, dwell with man! — O, may *others* be ſtirred up to walk in faith!

I have paid my brethren at BRISTOL a loving viſit for twelve or thirteen days: and came home exceedingly ſtrengthened and refreſhed, and the dear people of GOD proſpering here! "All is well!" — the preacher lively, the people loving, numbers attending! On the Lord's day the Houſe crouded: — ſeveral deſiring to be admitted into our church as members; ſo that, bleſſed be the Lord, "all things *do* work

work together for good!" I do believe his conſtant unchangeable love to us; and that "bleſſing he will bleſs us, and multiplying he will multiply us!" I do believe I ſhall ſee *greater* things than theſe — HALLELUJAH! — *praiſe the* LORD! —

BEFORE THE OPENING THE TABERNACLE ſhe wrote to her friend, Miſs B——n, thus: —

My dear Siſter,

By the good hand of our GOD upon us our TABERNACLE is almoſt finiſhed. Next Monday, Nov. 20, we propoſe to open it. We invite the FATHERS, the ELDERS, and the HEADS of the TRIBES, as many as the LORD ſhall *incline*, to come and help us *dedicate* it to HIM; — and to intreat him to fill it with his PRESENCE, his GLORY, till time ſhall be no more!

Tell our Brethren who *love* our dear LORD JESUS; tell them, whether they come to partake with us or not, what things the LORD hath done for us — they are marvellous in our eyes! HE hath pitched a TABERNACLE — HE *dwells* among us! Glory, glory, glory be to HIM, the SPIRIT is greatly poured forth in *convincing* and *converting!* COME AND SEE! — In the firſt place, we reſpect and invite the PREACHERS, the EMBASSADORS of CHRIST among you; — and then, as many others as THE LORD *ſhall incline!*"

Mrs. TURNER, by the hearty conſent of her worthy Huſband, always kept the annual return of the twentieth of November, or the moſt convenient day near it, *Holy to the* LORD; in a feſtive ſolemn manner; — opening their TABERNACLE for public preaching, and providing a plain, but plentiful, entertainment for miniſters and private chriſtians. On theſe occaſions they have entertained twenty miniſters, and two or three hundred people, in the courſe of the day. Several of the miniſters uſually divided the ſervices of thoſe days between them. By peruſing the following Letter ſhe wrote to me, ſome years after, the reader will ſee the purity of her views in calling her friends and neighbours together.—

" My Beloved Siſter,

Come to us next THURSDAY, with your beloved PASTOR Mr. SLOPER, Miſs SAVAGE, and as many other friends as ſhall be *inclined* to come: and when we are met together in one place and in one ſpirit, may the HOLY GHOST be poured upon us! May we all be endued with power from on HIGH, and be afreſh anointed and ſent forth — not to work *miracles*, or to ſpeak divers *languages*, but — to live to HIS *praiſe*, to be more conformed to JESUS, more unlike and ſeparated from the *World!* Pray my beloved friend, oh, pray that the LORD HIMSELF may be with us! I think my ſoul deſires

deſires *this* above all things; and that He may ſend by whom he will ſend; and divinely ſtrengthen every dear faithful miniſter — and abundantly bleſs and ſtrengthen all his ſpiritual worſhippers, and give us all a little taſte of HEAVEN!

If your dear ſiſter could come I ſhould be thankful; but if not, ſurely, we ſhall remember her before the KING, to ſend her a portion of the ſweeteſt bleſſings! But, ſhould *we* forget her, JESUS her SAVIOUR *never will!* I do expect great bleſſings from the LORD; — tell dear Mr. Sloper ſo! My heart is inlarged; mine eye is to the LORD alone, from whom all bleſſings flow! But ten thouſand thanks to him for the LOVE, the delightful fellowſhip I have with his ſaints; the *excellent* of the earth! — I can ſay, in *them* is all my delight! Adieu; my dearly beloved ſiſter, believe me conſtantly, and affectionately your's,

J. TURNER.

— Dec. 1771. By the good hand of our GOD upon us ſtrengthening us, according to our day, the houſe is finiſhed—devoted, given up to Him: and, glory be to his adorable MAJESTY, He takes poſſeſſion! His preſence was felt by many on the opening it, Nov. 20 — a time to be remembered! The name of the place is — "THE LORD IS THERE!" — He bowed his heavens and came down ſo ſweetly into my ſoul on that day, and does ſo conſtantly bleſs me — it

is to my ſoul as a feaſt of fat things every time the goſpel is preached; and I have a taſte of all the bleſſings beſtowed on OTHERS! My bleſſed IMMANUEL almoſt conſtantly ſmiles upon my ſoul! Whenever I look to him he gives me ſuch *loving* commands, and notwithſtanding I do all ſo abominably ill that I deſerve nothing but frowns and blows; he covers all my faults, and calls me righteous even as He is righteous! It is ſuch a *ſweet* MYSTERY — but he makes me believe it! He calls me his love, his dove, his undefiled — particularly at his bleſſed ſupper; — his ſiſter, his ſpouſe — I that am ſo polluted ſo black! — but it is in HIS *comelineſs*, in HIS *righteouſneſs* I am compleat!

I think, from my inmoſt ſoul, there never was ſuch an *unworthy* creature ſo *bleſt!* And, bleſſed be his name, there is a great out-pouring of his SPIRIT upon *others:* MANY are called from the kingdom of ſatan; — "JEHOVAH his HOSTS is among!" I think, every individual of our SOCIETY is going from ſtrength to ſtrength — I feel a general growth in MINISTER and PEOPLE: HALLELUJAH! — *praiſe the* LORD!

THUS was that reſpectable place of worſhip at TROWBRIDGE, commonly known by the name of the TABERNACLE, ſet about and compleated *in* FAITH! Being determined to aſk help of no one, as ſhe remarked

marked, but to accept of any thing that was *freely* OFFERED; they received the inconſiderable ſum of 29l. 7s. from a few friends: — *excluſive* of which, they defrayed the WHOLE *of the expence*, to their very great aſtoniſhment and joy, out of the *profits* of *that year's trade!* as may be ſeen by the remainder of the JOURNAL concerning the building: —

— Jan. 1772. — "Bleſſed be the LORD, he ſtill calls us to live by faith on his promiſes to bear us out! We have taken ſtock as uſual, thinking it prudent, but in confidence: and my dear Huſband was wonderfully freed from fears, praiſed be the LORD THE COMFORTER!

About midnight, as my dear huſband and I were employed in the work, after the family was retired to reſt, I had ſuch an inexpreſſible *ſweetneſs* come over my ſpirit as exceedingly revived me! I thought my deareſt LORD — who pitied us like as a father his children — ſaid, with ſuch an ineffable ſmile and ſweetneſs! — CHILDREN, *This is too much:* — WHY do you expoſe your health, give up your ſleep and eaſe, in order to maintain my cauſe? I do not deſire it: I promiſe you *it is* well; it *ſhall* be well: you ſhall never be put to ſhame; I will never leave nor forſake: — bleſſing I will bleſs you, and multiplying I will multiply; — truſt *me*, you ſhall never be con-

confounded! — I know your *hearts*, your *inmoſt* SOULS I am not diſpleaſed, you deſign it for *my* GLORY: but I ſhall be as *well pleaſed*, and it ſhall be as *well with you* — if you omit for the future breaking your *reſt* on account of it!"

Many other *ſweet*, precious, familiar expreſſions ſeemed to come with *ſuch* POWER to my heart, as filled me with joy unſpeakable; and I could not but think it a *viſit from* GOD: and paid us in ſuch a wonderfully ſuitable manner to the ſituation we were in, as was aſtoniſhing! — My ſoul was filled with adoration, love and praiſe!

I told it my dear huſband immediately, who, I am ſure, felt ſomething of the ſweetneſs! Oh, where ſhall I ſink before the LORD — the *loweſt* of all at his feet, becauſe the *moſt unworthy!* I muſt deſire all to give *me* place there, for it is *my due!* And in the deſire of my ſoul I would outſtrip them in ſerving, or ſuffering for his glory: my greateſt delight is to ſerve; — O that my dear LORD would teach and make me! All that night I ſlept as in the arms of JESUS, dreaming of his love; and ſeveral times waked myſelf, ſpeaking of him!

Jan. 28, 1772. We finiſhed our accounts: and to our very great ſurprize and abaſement, we found our *heavenly* FATHER, our *adorable* LORD, had given us an amazing increaſe *this year*; enough to defray *the expence*

pence of building the TABERNACE: with the *free-will* OFFERINGS, and twelve pounds, over and above, as wages for our overſeeing the work! Our hearts glowed with wonder, love and praiſe! We were aſtoniſhed, confounded! It was next to *incredible*, almoſt too much to be believed! But we remembered the *antient* days, the days of old — believed the promiſes, and ſaw the LORD's hand was not ſhortened! He ſaid, "*prove me:*" He ſaid, — bleſſing I *will* bleſs thee: — fear not, I am with thee, thou *worm* JACOB; — and, is any thing too hard for the LORD!"

We examined, re-examined — put all the accounts into the hands of our dear PASTOR, who could not find any material error — a few ſhillings, in the caſting up, were the only miſtake we could diſcover.

Such great things were *wonderful* to us: — it was the LORD's *doing*, and truly *marvellous* in our eyes!

The bleſſed effect it will have upon us, I hope, will be, to *truſt* the LORD more: — to live more to his Glory, to believe his promiſes, obey his precepts! Whatever *others* do, may *we* and *our houſe*, ſerve him — cleave to him with *full purpoſe of* HEART! May we be of CALEB's ſpirit — be "ALL HEART" for GOD! Oh, may He conſtantly quicken us by His SPIRIT! for without

without him we can do nothing — but all things through his ſtrengthening us!"

And thus the Lord honoured thoſe with almoſt *miraculous* ſucceſs in trade, who honoured him with their ſubſtance, and with the firſt fruits of their increaſe! May all that read this be encouraged, in their meaſure, to go and do likewiſe!

Thus bleſt of the most high, on every ſide, — in their Miniſter, their Church, their trade, their connections; — *prejudice* began to wear away from the minds of many that had hitherto ſet themſelves againſt them; and the world was conſtrained to *eſteem* and *admire*, where they had not faith to *imitate!*

Our dear friend, in conjunction with her partner in life, was ſuitably impreſſed with the ſenſe of her mercies. — The flouriſhing ſtate of the Church, and the Honor God conferred on her minister, were matter of great rejoicing to her: and ſhe could not but be pleaſed, to ſee *prejudice* inſenſibly wearing away; and that ſhe began to be *eſteemed* by thoſe who formerly *deſpiſed* her.

For many years the Lord had inſpired Mrs. Turner, with a deſire to introduce the Gospel at Tisbury, in Wilts. She had conceived a great partiality for that Village, becauſe it was Mr. Turner's native place, and quite deſtitute of the knowledge of ſalvation by Christ.

By

By frequent visits she had made herself well acquainted with the forlorn state of the people residing in it: and seemed persuaded, that if the Gospel could be introduced, much good would be done. For a long season she laid this matter before the LORD, as Mr. TURNER could not, for some time, enter into her views: however, he at last consented to employ a brother on the spot, to look out an House that they might purchase.

In the spring of the year 1781, an House was offered to sale. Just at this period, a legacy of an hundred pounds was left them by a christian friend, who, in his life, had been a great favourer of the Gospel! — These two remarkable openings of Providence confirmed her in the persuasion that the matter was of GOD!

The purchase was made: — and, having given herself unto prayer for a blessing upon the attempt, with Mr. TURNER's permission and hearty concurrence, she determined to leave TROWBRIDGE, and all her concerns there, for a time, and go to TISBURY in the strength of the LORD: — notwithstanding she knew she had to cope with many rich and powerful opposers of the Gospel there; — and was likely to be charged with folly and enthusiasm, and accounted a busy body, interfering where she had no call, by many of her dearest christian

chriſtian brethren, who could not enter into the purity of her motives!

The following Letter to her dearly beloved relation, Miſs E. J——n, will beſt deſcribe her inward feelings, and outward ſufferings, at this time:

"My dearly beloved Siſter,

It is truly delightful to me to receive Letters conſtantly from you! I ſhould have been happy to have ſeen you at this time, but as you prefer a more diſtant period, I muſt acquieſce. As ſoon as my young friends leave me, I hope you will come to me, either here or at TISBURY.

I ſtand with my loins girt, to remove at a day's warning, as ſoon as the preſent inhabitants ſhall quit the houſe at TISBURY. Sally and I are to go: and do not, my dearly beloved ſiſter, be ſurprized or in the leaſt alarmed, ſhould the providence of God point your coming to help me there, inſtead of our ſtaying together at TROWBRIDGE!

I have a confident hope, ſtrong faith, that WONDERS will be wrought there in the name of JESUS! I expect the right arm of the LORD to be revealed; a great outpouring of the SPIRIT: — and that I ſhall have cloſer union, greater fellowſhip with the LORD, than I have ever yet enjoyed! HE will be with me! — my huſband, brother,

ther, father, friend ;— my wiſdom, ſtrength, portion — ALL!

Come, dear ſiſter, come and partake — richly freely — of every bleſſing! There are now TOBIAS, SANBALLAT, &c. &c. as in NEHEMIAH's time — who would weaken the hands, and make ſad the hearts, of GOD's people! "It will anſwer no end," ſay they — it will come to nought — it is a wild ſcheme! — How can it be kept up in a future time — at ſuch a diſtance?" Traditions of men are, now-a-days, too much attended to even by real diſciples!

O my beloved ſiſter — RELIGION muſt be the ſame — as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever ſhall be! GOD is unchangeable ; — *his* WORD is the ſtandard — the divine rule, ſtill, to try all by! Alas! alas! — I cannot forbear taking up a lamentation, and ſaying, How came, from whence came — "this innovation, this degradation of our moſt holy religion?" — which is — "believing on CHRIST with our hearts, and confeſſing Him with our lips and lives!" I am ſtriving to be a ſimple follower of JESUS! Glory be to GOD, if I meet with ſome little diſcouragement, I am favoured, bleſt, with divine aſſiſtance ; — and with much human help : — praiſe GOD, from whom all bleſſings flow! It is too large a ſubject to expatiate on with pen and ink : — I truſt I ſhall ſee you

ſoon, face to face, and tell you ſome of the peculiar Providences, teachings, conſolations and kind corrections — vouchſafed at this time: — no good thing is withheld!

Indeed, my dear Siſter, I could not leave my pleaſant ſituation, my delightful poſt, but for the glory of my GOD — who is the portion of his people: — and the happineſs of my dear fellow immortals! O pray, pray, pray; hold me up by your prayers! Is there a creature upon earth that needs them like me? — And, I am ſure, there is not a creature upon earth that has ſo much to be thankful for!

I ſhould have been happy to have ſeen dear Mr. FLETCHER. I believe he prays for me; and ſo I believe *many* do at this time: — may all their dear hearts be encouraged! The LORD does hear, he does anſwer — *prayer*: — HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH! — My preſent employment is very ſweet — endeavouring a little to feed thoſe dear lambs with me! And, glory be to GOD, although my ſpirit is kept in the moſt awful ſolemn frame, yet it is exceedingly ſweet: — *fear* does not come nigh me; my *peace* flows like a River! The good LORD does keep me in perfect peace, with my mind ſtayed upon *him!*" —

In a ſecond Letter ſhe writes as follows:

" My

" My beloved Sister,

I am thankful for one more opportunity of writing before I go. It is truly delightful to me to converse with you, and to hear from you! Glory, glory be to my adorable GOD, He is pleased to indulge me with a clearer light, and with greater power, to go on in the much *untrodden*, and therefore much *wondered-at* path, He vouchsafes — by his Spirit, Word, and Providence, to lead me in! O may you, my beloved sister, have a greater degree, larger measure of every heavenly blessing, to confirm, stablish, strengthen you in the divine service, if it be his good pleasure to employ you in that part of the vineyard! " Send, LORD, by whom thou wilt send" — All power is thine! — None are sufficient in themselves; and thou canst strengthen, use — yea, and work wonders too, by the feeblest worm — that no flesh may glory in thy presence!

Next week, I hope to go my little pilgrimage to TISBURY. The present, is the most solemn period of my life! I experience more peace and power from the LORD, than I have ever been favoured with — perhaps, there is more need of it! I wonder, myself, at the testimony I am constrained to bear — the awful important messages I deliver to the *bigotted* worldly-minded professors — with a boldness I

never had before! The fear of MAN, and the desire of pleasing *them*, contrary to the word of GOD, is so taken away — that my *liberty* is inexpressible! What my dearest LORD will be pleased to do with me, by me, for me, I am not careful about: — I take no thought for the morrow! He himself will be with me; and —

"With HIM conversing, I forget all time:
All seasons and their change, *all* please alike!"

If you should not go to Madeley, I beseech you to come up to the help of the LORD, and strengthen the hands of the feebleſt servant that ever was employed — a nothing nothing creature! But the LORD is with me! My Helper is — the MIGHTY GOD of JACOB! — Glory, glory, glory be to His DIVINE MAJESTY!

I shall slip away with great quietness. No Human strength, parade or show; — my spirit will not bear it! — No assembling of friends, nor opening a House: — *Wonders* must be wrought in the name of JESUS! No denomination, no party to be preferred: — no *Bigot*, if I know it, of any party to be admitted: — My spirit has suffered so much from these, that I cannot but shrink from the very *appearance* of BIGOTRY!

You would rejoice, my dear sister, at the goodly company among the preachers that have offered themselves *willingly*; — my heart is indeed with them! Who can tell

tell what a great matter, this little fire, in the hands of our great and good GOD — may kindle!"

In another Letter, she says, "Our design of bringing the Gospel to TISBURY is amazingly rumoured round a vast neighbourhood. Great risings of heart and threatenings, I hear, are the consequents: — and frequent assembling together of the *clergy* and *rich farmers* to obstruct our coming; — but if the LORD permit, who shall hinder!"

In the month of May, 1781, Mr. and Mrs. TURNER went to TISBURY, to attend the manor-court, and take possession of their new purchase; but only stayed one day, the house being yet tenanted. Some persons, who had received a hint of their intention, met them; and congratulated them on the business, with expressions of joy — that the GOSPEL was like to come within their reach. Mrs. TURNER considered these unexpected congratulations as a token for good — nor was she disappointed of her HOPE.

A few weeks after, Mrs. TURNER, with a man and maid-servant, went to reside there, for a time; and as soon as they arrived they published preaching for the ensuing Saturday. The following Letter to her dearly beloved Husband, gives an account of their first week's proceed-

ing, employment, and prospect of success: —

"My dear Thomas,

Thy wife should be the humblest, thankfullest creature upon earth, to GOD and man — she is so laden with benefits! "Mercy and truth follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD for ever!"

Thank you for your dear Letter by Mr. C——! I hope you were carried home safe! I felt for you all the afternoon you left me; besides pangs of the tendereſt affection at parting! The awful weather was a great affliction; thinking how you were exposed. Not that I had a doubt of the goodness of my heavenly father: — to Him I commended thee; to Him I ever shall commend thee, who is a present help in every time of need!

TISBURY, is just the same to me as TROWBRIDGE — my GOD is as near to me! I stand in need of constant support and supply from him; and, glory be to his name, he does graciously afford strength according to my day! My *employment* is the same — telling of his goodness, love and power; — my own, and my dear fellow-immortals, vileness and weakness! I am greatly astonished at the attention of all I have spoken to — young and old: and the understandings of many seem, in a degree enlightened!

enlightened! — Glory be to GOD, who inclines their hearts to hear, in the moſt favourable manner, what a poor worm ſpeaks out of the abundance of her heart — from love to their ſouls, and ſtrong deſires to glorify her dear LORD and SAVIOUR!

One of your relations, ſeemed a good deal affected at the thought of my coming to reſide among them — ſaid, "He believed the preachers would not have been received in any other manner; but there was no doubt but they would — now!" — Surely, the LORD's ways are in the great Deep! What we know not at preſent, we are taught in future! — I mention this for your ſtill greater reconciliation to my abſence.

Oh! that the LORD may ſpeak to the Hearts of the people here! May there be a great out-pouring of the SPIRIT! my eyes are to the LORD, and my expectation from him! Indeed, I never ſaw before ſo extenſive a proſpect of the ſpread of the Goſpel in a new place! Oh, that SATAN may not be permitted to fruſtrate!

I am more and more ſatisfied and aſſured, that I am where I ought to be: — and, "to *obey*, is better than *ſacrifice!*" The approbation of my GOD is to me abundantly better, than all the enjoyments of life; — and theſe I have to!

My

My Soul followeth hard after GOD! None but HE can help the people: I endeavour to point them all to HIM! I want nothing, but more of his bleſſed ſelf — his Spirit — likeneſs to HIM, in every action every temper. How aſhamed, how ſorry am I, for all that is contrary! — and, indeed, *that* is every thing I think, ſay, or do! All day long my refuge is in JESUS — my HAPPINESS, that "his blood cleanſeth from all ſin!"

I think ſometimes, — "When things here are ſettled, and the workmen have finiſhed, I ſhall be *ſo* happy!" — and immediately recollect the folly of deferring the expectation of happineſs one moment; or hoping for it in any thing here below, it being to be enjoyed only in GOD! — Employment, ſtation, ſituation are not the leaſt impediment!

William, and Sally, are great Helps to me, in every reſpect. Laſt night, Brother William, Mrs. Shepherd and her daughter, were with us. I read a ſermon; we ſang and prayed, and the LORD ſtrengthened and bleſſed us all together!

You cannot conceive the ſweet openings of PROVIDENCE, and bleſſed teachings of the SPIRIT to my own ſoul, I am favoured with, to gently lead, allure, and draw the people to the LORD — it is Heavenly employment!

employment! — I gave up my time to all that come!

Shall be glad of more of the dialogues, and ſome few of "Dr. Watts's ſecond catechiſms for children." The place before our houſe is their play-place, and prodigiouſly noiſy they were the firſt two evenings. I intend to invite them all into my houſe, and give a halfpenny, each, to play at ſome other place; and at the ſame time, perhaps, ſpeak to them largely of their ſoul-affairs. So that, I ſuppoſe, I ſhall ſoon have ſome catechumens — and the ſervice of my LORD is perfect freedom!

By his good hand he has brought me hither, to ſpeak comfortably, and to cheriſh a few diſciples, who are languiſhing and withering, for want of the SAVIOUR's being preached to them, as — *all-ſufficient* and *all-ſufficing!* Some others, ſeem to have a deſire to pleaſe GOD, if they did but know the way: others, are amazingly ignorant; — but, either out of curioſity, novelty or other motives — *all* ſeem willing to hear — deſirous to attend to me and treat me with LOVE!

Indeed, it is viſible to myſelf, GOD has put an awe upon the inhabitants at preſent; ſo that, I hope, none of the dear miniſters hearts will ſink. Glory be to GOD, here is a large and open door — abundant labours to enter into, for the glory of GOD!

You

You know I am averſe to tattling; none are indulged by me to ſpeak the leaſt offenſive thing; — all is ſolemn and devout! Some one ſaid, "the Clergyman intended to *pay us off* at CHURCH, to-morrow;" — but, I hope, I have ever ſince heartily *prayed* for him, that he may be pardoned and *converted!* — I do not talk about the MINISTERS here, but — the concerns of *precious immortal* SOULS!

You cannot think how ſpontaneouſly I fall into what I ſuppoſe is, the cuſtom of the country — aſking all your relations to *eat* and *drink;* and I ſee they ſhew their good-will to you by *eating* and *drinking.* — There appears to me ſomething pleaſing and primitive in the cuſtom — when it is not abuſed.

My dear, you muſt be ſure to ſend me preachers: for all the world, but this corner in which I am, ſeems as much out of my reach as if there were an Ocean to be croſſed. But if our dear brethren will pray for us, and come regularly to help us — "*all is well!*" "Send, LORD, by whom thou wilt ſend;" but let the meſſage be to the hearts and conſciences!

The LORD is our protector, by night and by day; for there is not a *lock* on any door of the Houſe, at preſent, and but one *bolt.* Sally faſtens one with a bit of chip; the window ſhutters with feather-quills; and

and with a ſtring of our ſmall *pack-thread* ſhe ties the latch of another door: — I ſmile, and tell her — "She *muſt* have ſomething beſides GOD to truſt in — if it be but a *ſtring of pack-thread!*" — THUS, we ſweetly experience the LORD's protecting arm: He calls us to it; It cannot be otherwiſe, at preſent; — Neither the workmen nor any others are to be blamed! — GOD willing, ſhall ſee you next week, to order the alterations in the Houſe. — "HALLELUJAH! THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH!" — therefore never *fear* for *me!*

— Hope, dear Mr. NEWBORN will be moſt *divinely* ſtrengthened! my ſoul travels, as it were, in birth for this place — for the *ſpiritual* deliverance of its inhabitants!"

Mr. NEWBORN, a ſtudent of THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON's, came and preached on the Saturday-evening, and three times the next day: and the following extract from a Letter to her niece B—t, now Mrs. L—k, gives an account of the reception his meſſage met with.

"It was aſtoniſhing — the great gathering together of the people, and their very ſolemn, decent, reſpectful behaviour! — Much oppoſition had been meditated, but little made: an egg was thrown, but did not break. An attempt was made to blow Horns, but the ſound was ſo low as to give no

no interruption. Some efforts were uſed to ſet the dogs on barking, but the moſt they produced was only a low ſnarling — and *that* ſoon ceaſed. The adorable LORD gave the preacher ſuch power over the hearts of the people, that if he did but ſay, "Do not mind what they do — mind *me*, who am ſpeaking to you in the name of the LORD;" — all their eyes were preſently turned upon him again! Silent tears ſtole down the cheeks of many; — and many remarkable wicked perſons have forſaken their wickedneſs!

O! praiſe the LORD, for his wonderful goodneſs to the children of men! My feelings for that country are ſo ſtrong, that if it were the will of my GOD, I could happily reſide among them — all my remaining days below: — but I can do nothing but pray my GOD to bleſs them — and *that* I can do when at TROWBRIDGE!

There is indeed, my dear, a bleſſed proſpect! All the miniſters, (and there is a freſh one every week) have felt moſt *divine* animations! Glory be to God — there is a viſible alteration in many! We purpoſe, with divine permiſſion, to erect a Chapel there. We have purchaſed ground; and as the LORD puts it into our hearts, He will bear us through this, and every other delightful ſervice — He honors us the unworthieſt of creatures with!

You

You will be very happy, when you come to live with us, my dear Niece, to be ſometimes there. It is a divine retreat, moſt delightful country; — but it is the *Love of* GOD that makes us *happy* as well as *holy!*

If you have an opportunity to ſpeak to Mr. J——s, and Mr. S——n, who were both ſo kind as to promiſe me ſome BIBLES, and if there were with them ſome of "Dr. Watts's *ſecond catechiſms* for children," they might be very uſeful. — I do not think, in any part of ENGLAND, there is a greater want of them — or of the WORD of GOD!

I have diſtributed many books, and a bleſſing has viſibly attended ſome! If you ſee the Rev. Mr. B——n, before you leave London, tell him, the LORD is a prayer-anſwering GOD! — The morning I ſet off for TISBURY, it was under the ſweet influence of his prayers for ſucceſs; and I hope he will not faint, but continue to hold up all our hands, and others of the dear ſervants of the Lord! ELIAS was a man of like paſſions; and yet, by prayer, he ſhut and opened heaven; and it is "a weapon," Mr. Hart ſays, "the *weakeſt* can wield the beſt." — Never, never before did I need, did I experience, ſo much of the divine power and love extended towards me!"

The moſt notoriouſly-wicked wretch in the pariſh, ſhe ſays, in another Letter,

was awakened under the firſt ſermon. — He was a great drunkard, and ſo involved in his circumſtances, by his extravagancies, that he was driven almoſt to deſtroy himſelf: — who from that time continued in the good ways of God — and became a good huſband, good father, and a uſeful member of ſociety!

The inſtances of ſucceſs attending the word preached, are too numerous to be inſerted here! And our friends were encouraged to promote and put forward the building a very neat, little CHAPEL; of which, and the increaſe of converts, ſhe ſpeaks thus in a Letter to her beloved couſin, dated TISBURY, Oct. 17, 1781.

" My beloved Siſter,

My LORD is with me! He calls a *worm* — *His* FRIEND, He calls *Himſelf* — *my* GOD! *Wonders* are wrought here in the name of JESUS! never, never did I ſee, or expect to ſee, ſo great a ſpread of the goſpel — and as deep and ſolid as it is wide! But it is all the LORD's doings! HE ſhall have all the Glory; and all my poor abilities ſhall be conſtantly exerted, to teach the people — yea, all the people, to aſcribe all to HIM!

Here are LIONS indeed turned into LAMBS! The diſpoſitions and behaviour of many are viſibly different — as the *fierce* and *ſavage*, from the *meek* and *gentle!* — Theſe things, my beloved, cannot but greatly

greatly ſtrengthen my hands, and animate my heart, in the bleſſed ſervice of my DIVINE MASTER!

The number of living witneſſes already raiſed up in this place, is a ſure token, a clear call to us, to erect a Chapel, in which they may aſſemble quietly together. Glory be to GOD, by his good hand upon us, the foundation is laid — the *ſacred walls* are moſt *delightfully* raiſing! — But it is amazing — the envious, *malicious*, but *impotent* efforts of every kind, that are made by the Heads of the Pariſh to hinder the work!

Almoſt every day produceth ſomething new: and, bleſſed be the LORD — He as conſtantly watches over, preſerves, defends and encourages his poor duſt! How great, how conſpicuous — His *goodneſs* and *power!* Surely, he "carrieth his Lambs in his arms, and gently leadeth thoſe that are with young;" for, until I returned again amongſt them, they were not ſuffered to break out and diſturb the deſtitute ſheep!

Soon after I came hither, the 15th verſe of the 41ſt of ISAIAH, was ſtrongly impreſſed upon my mind; "Behold, I will make "thee a new ſharp threſhing inſtrument "having teeth: thou ſhalt threſh the "mountains, and beat them ſmall, and "ſhalt make the hills as chaff." — AND

almoſt the next time I read the BIBLE, I was ſtruck with theſe words, " Ariſe and " threſh, O daughter of Zion: for I will " make thine Horn iron, and I will make " thy Hoofs Braſs, and thou ſhalt beat in " pieces many people: and I will conſe- " crate their gain unto the LORD, and " their ſubſtance unto the LORD of the " whole earth:" Micah 4. 13, — If theſe POOR *great men* could prevent, they would not let us have — workmen, materials, carriage, nor even ſand for mortar — we are forbid *that:* — and yet we are not hindered, want for nothing, nor in the leaſt put to a ſtand!"

While the CHAPEL was building, another Houſe was licenced for preaching, at EBSBOURN; whither the miniſter went from TISBURY, to preach, at one o'clock, every Lord's-day. — THUS ſhe ſpeaks of it in the ſame Letter:—

— " We have another Houſe *licenced*, ſix miles from hence, and great ſucceſs attends the preaching there: but it is too far for me to walk, and no one here dares lend me an horſe. Satan roars, as he does here; but can do no more. — A convert from thence came to us yeſterday — a ſolid man. — They have blown horns, twice, to diſturb; but now they are more peaceable.

Glory

Glory be to GOD! the dear people are fitting up a place themſelves for preaching, and a ſtable for the horſe. They are a moſt *bleſſed* people; have met together for mutual edification near a year; — came to our firſt preaching, and beſought us to come over and help them!"

On Lord's-Day, the ſixteenth of October, in the forenoon, a SOCIETY was formed of thoſe who were truly united to CHRIST: and thus ſhe ſpeaks on the occaſion: —

— "YESTERDAY, in the forenoon, the foundation of a CHURCH of CHRIST, the living GOD, was laid here! Some lively ſtones, that I truſt are ſpiritually united to GOD, and to each other in CHRIST, are ſweetly appointed, to ſtrengthen each others hands in Him! — Mr. BEAUFOY, a ſtudent of LADY HUNTINGDON's, ſpeaking to them, firſt, from MALACHI 3. 16, 17. "Then they that fear-"ed the LORD, ſpake often one to another, "and the LORD hearkened and heard it, "and a book of remembrance was written "before him for them that feared the LORD, "and that thought upon his name. And "they ſhall be mine, ſaith the LORD of "hoſts, in that day when I make up my "jewels, and I will ſpare them as a man "ſpareth his own ſon that ſerveth him!" — Two of the men were as great ſwearers

and drunkards, as any in the place — before the *preaching* commenced!"

To Mr. TURNER ſhe writes thus: — "Bleſſed be the LORD, many hearts are opening, and opened, here, by the mighty power of GOD, to receive the WORD in the *love* of it! I am quite in my element, giving glory to Him: for "all the good that is done upon the earth — HE doth it himſelf:" — ALL THIS AND HEAVEN TOO!

This is a ſweet, ſacred retirement: my ſoul is enjoying ſuch nearneſs to my GOD, as I am not uſually favoured with! — Now, my dear, I can with *confidence* aſſure you, the matter is of the LORD! We uſed to ſay, if but *one* ſoul were converted to GOD, it were worth all the expence, all the trouble! How good, how kind is the LORD, that hath already brought to our knowledge *one notorious* ſinner, and *one* of a *phariſaical* turn, that was brought to the LORD by the *firſt* ſermon, — and ſeveral others, by *every* ſermon ſince!

Now the ſeed ſown begins to ſpring up, in my ſight, to my great joy — and to the glory of my GOD! Even *young children* are filled with ſuch *zeal*, that they want to reprove gainſayers. Tell MOTHER, ſhe may live a little heaven upon earth here, if ſhe is in a ſpirit of *ſubmiſſion* and *adoration*. — I have told the people of her taking my place here,

here, for a time, and JENNY WALK, her *convert* in the LORD, is delighted.

I have not permitted *goſſiping* converſation here: and, I hope, none will ever be admitted under this *ſacred* roof — *dedicated* to ALMIGHTY GOD, *ſet apart* for HIS WORSHIP! May every future Inhabitant feel his preſence — think, ſpeak and act, under his eye — honor *him* and he will honor *them!*

It is a BETHEL! I muſt give it the name, from the fulleſt ſweeteſt experience of its being none other than the *Houſe of* GOD, and the very *gate of* HEAVEN, to my ſoul! *Thy will*, I ſay continually, *my* GOD, be done — in me, by me! but that *goodneſs love* and *power*, thou haſt ſo richly and conſtantly cauſed to paſs before me, make this place ſo delightful to my own ſoul — that if it were thy heavenly will, I could gladly ſpend the rēmainder of my days in this ſweet retirement; — and here, with my beloved huſband, ſweetly fall aſleep in JESUS! — But, if my LORD is pleaſed to call me again, into the buſy, and into the religious world, He will ſupport me: — He will ſupply my every future want!

"With HIM converſing, I forget all time;
All ſeaſons and their change, *all* pleaſe alike!"

O, what a *bleſſed*, what a *ſoul-ſatisfying* portion is the LORD!

Yeſterday, I paid a ſweet viſit to the poor

poor at the work-houſe: — ſurely, it is to the poor the GOSPEL muſt be preached!

This is written with ſo bad a pen that I would deſtroy it; but conſider, it was dictated with a good deſign, from my *heart* — and to a loving friend, that will caſt the mantle of *love* wherever it is neceſſary.

O thou *tendereſt*, *beſt* of Huſbands! thou *doſt* deſerve the beſt exertions of my poor abilities: and when I return home, my GOD will ſtrengthen me to aſſiſt thee in the toils of life, and recompence thy care with the kindeſt endearments!

Friday Morning — Oh my dear, how *good* the LORD is! My life *ſhould* be, and glory be to his name, *it is*, in a meaſure — ALL THANKSGIVING! I ſee ſo much cauſe to *praiſe!* — His *works praiſe* Him, his *ſaints muſt bleſs* Him! The ſpringing up of the glorious goſpel-ſeed, is moſt *delightful* to me to behold! Surely, here is an amazing outpouring of the SPIRIT! "What can DAVID ſay — Will the ALMIGHTY dwell with *Man?*" GLORY be to HIM, HE *will*, HE *does!* Bleſſed are my eyes that ſee it, my ears that hear it! It is not — the PASSIONS only touched! but ſinners are really *turned from their ſins*; they *hate* them, and have *power againſt* them! And is it not the LORD that girdeth them with ſtrength, though they do not *know* it is HE — but tell me, that "They were never ſo *happy* in their lives,

lives, never lived ſo *good* before" — and they "truſt in the LORD they ſhall *always* be *good?*"

Here is ſuch a liſping forth the praiſes of JESUS! — They carry their hymn-books in their pockets, and read them every opportunity: and they taſte ſuch real pleaſure, that the *ſcoffs* and *jeers* of their old companions, are but little regarded by them!

Here are no complaints of *doubting*; I do not know that I have heard the word *mentioned!* The LORD gives *faith:* the goſpel report is *believed* by *many!* and CHRIST ſaith, "He will not break a *bruiſed reed,* — but will gently lead thoſe that are *with young!*"

Henry S——k, our *firſt* convert, appears to me full of ſimplicity and godly ſincerity: What a *Lion* turned into a *Lamb* is He! O! what am I, that his ſoul ſhould be given me! Night and day, I cannot but praiſe GOD for this "Brand plucked from the burning!" I never before rejoiced ſo much at any converſion, but my own! Indeed, my ſoul feels an inexpreſſible relation to his! — Oh! how *good,* how *good* the LORD is!

Glory be to GOD, I never before ſaw ſuch a *ſpeedy,* and, to preſent appearance, *powerful,* ſpread of the Goſpel! Oh, may no malignant blights and blaſts be ſuffered

to

to fall upon us, or riſe up to ſpoil the precious fruit! Pray, my dear Huſband, pray and praiſe for us! Oh that the LORD may come with every one of his dear ſervants, that offer themſelves *willingly* to his delightful work!—My heart is *indeed* with them—before, at, and after their work,—praying that they may have a bleſſed reward!

The LORD comes to my help—dwells in my heart—is with me every where, and at all times;—and ſhall I fear any thing but SIN! *That* would *grieve* HIS SPIRIT—cauſe him to *withdraw!* I do not fear hoſts of *men*, nor legions of *devils!* What can *they* do without DIVINE *permiſſion?* And my LORD "keeps me as the apple of his eye!—has graven me on the palms of his hands;—waters me every moment;—keeps me by night and by day!"

My dear huſband, I do *long* to be a CHRISTIAN!—Well: Glory be to GOD, the HOLY SPIRIT does ſweetly enlarge my heart, expand my ſoul! I am on the tiptoe, on the ſtretch—for Heavenly advancement here on Earth! And I will tell you, my dear—the Height of my AMBITION, is—to ſubmit to every thing, *but, Sin*—to be *paſſive* in the LORD's hands as wood and ſtone! But moſt painful feelings I expect ſtill to paſs through, from different cauſes—the *ſtrength*, and the *weakneſs* of

of my nature! Do not, my beloved, be anxious one moment for me! — Under *evil* report, I run to *my* GOD for ſhelter; and in *good* report — I thank him for inclining the heart, and lay all my honors at my REDEEMER's feet!

After you left me, I had a moſt pleaſing ſenſe of the LORD's *goodneſs* to us! He would not permit us to have things *mean*, though he gave me a holy indifference to the things of this life. Every thing you have done and ordered, I ſee, is right; — and you cannot think how neat my little cottage will be by the time you come!

In about ſix minutes I drew a plan for the garden, which WILLIAM has executed. I talk to none but about *eternal* things, except what is abſolutely neceſſary: and, glory be to GOD, have frequently *delightful* ſeaſons of that kind! It is WONDERFUL, indeed it is WONDERFUL — the ſpread of the Truth the few weeks that it has been preached here! A good foundation is laid, a moſt *beautiful* and *glorious* TEMPLE is riſing, to the *admiration* of ſome, and *hatred* of others! How thankful, my dear THOMAS, ſhould you and I be, to be made ſervants in this GLORIOUS work! What an HONOR to ſerve *ſuch* a MASTER — who ſo ſweetly teaches, lovingly aſſiſts, ſtrengthens, bears through and furniſhes with every thing! What happy partakers are we of his loving

loving favor, *now* in *time* — and to ETERNITY it will be growing inconceivably great!

And beſides being happy OURSELVES — Oh my dear — to be inſtrumental to the *ſalvation of* OTHERS — it is *all* that is worth *living for!* While we ſee *ſo many*, either unſcripturally laying up treaſures upon earth; or *others*, as ſinfully conſuming it upon their *luſts* — to have it put in OUR HEARTS — *to devote to* THE LORD whatever He is pleaſed to give us — for it is all *his own*; — what an honor! what a PRIVILEGE!

Thurſday — O the ſweetneſs of repoſing in GOD — confiding truſting in HIM *alone*, for PROTECTION as well as DIRECTION! — Laſt night, Brother WILLIAM ſaid, he thought there ſhould be watchers; as the ſtable-wall is down, every thing open, and the new-raiſed wall ſo weak as yet, that there was great danger, not only from thieves, but malicious people might pull down the work by night: — but I durſt not be afraid of, nor confide in MAN! Firmly believing the promiſes of GOD in the 41ſt of ISAIAH, and moſt heartily commending ourſelves to the ALMIGHTY, we have had a moſt delightful night; — and all ſo peaceable and proſperous this morning, that nothing but the *power* and *preſence of* GOD can cauſe! The work goes on well to day, and every perſon fully and properly employed."

WHILST

WHILST the walls of the *outward* Church were raiſing, the *inward* was increaſing daily in many hearts; — and thus ſhe ſpeaks of the progreſs of the work to Miſs E. J——n: —

— "EBENEZER — hitherto the LORD hath *helped* me, my beloved in the LORD! I am returned to this place again, and find all well; — the SOCIETY enlarged — four added ſince I was here laſt. Several more, I ſuppoſe, will ſoon be added. The number of Hearers likewiſe increaſes. But it is the *poor* that receive the goſpel: as yet, the *richer* ſort grow more and more averſe, more *deſpiſing*, more *rejecting*: — notwithſtanding the judgments GOD has been pleaſed to execute amongſt them, and the viſible outſtretching of his arm of power, to defend and protect his defenceleſs ones, from all their attempts againſt us!

I ſenſibly perceive SATAN caſt out of many hearts, and taking ſtronger poſſeſſion of ſome others. He has had great power, for many ages, in theſe parts: but one that is ſtronger — the ALMIGHTY JESUS, is come to help — and *wonderous* things I do expect from him!

I do aſſure you, my dear ſiſter, it is not *fancy* — I ſpeak that I *ſee*, and teſtify that I *feel!* I have not — ſince Mr. WHITFIELD's time — known, ſuch a DIVINE *unction*, ſuch conſtant *power of the* SPIRIT, attend

the miniſtry of the word, as in *this* place — whoever were the preacher! — Our poor brother WATTS was there a fortnight ago, and made — *ſuch a bleſſing!* — Glory be to GOD; for HIS is all the power!

I have more than twenty children come to be catechiſed — boys and girls. They learn amazingly faſt! I have them Tueſdays and Fridays, from five to ſix; and a moſt pleaſing employment it is! — May it be bleſt to each of their precious ſouls! With Sally's aſſiſtance we ſing a Hymn for children: — and, not to over-burden them, but that they may remember the better, I endeavour to inculcate *one* duty at a time upon them. The firſt meeting was employed in adviſing them to behave well: — to be quiet and orderly in the ſtreets; — at home, abroad, and every where; which they promiſed to *mind*: — the next, in admoniſhing them againſt telling lies — which I charge every one to keep in mind. *Little*, as this employment may appear, I cannot expreſs what a ſolemnity and delight my ſoul feels in it! — And, as I did not come here to be *idle* — on Thurſdays, from ſix to ſeven, I meet ſome ſober, and, I hope, *awakened* young women: — may they be as lights in this place, and others be made to follow them, as they follow CHRIST!

The

The dear SOCIETY is met on the Lord's Day, by the Miniſter. And on the Wedneſday-evening, they meet together for reading or prayer: and my huſband's brother is raiſed up, by the mighty power of GOD, to be a Leader: — I am much bleſt under his *ſimple* prayers! Laſt night he read over one of Mr. WHITFIELD's ſermons. The work deepens in their hearts, and they ſo freely *confeſs* and *acknowledge* it — without the quibbles and fears of many we converſe with, in old churches! — A Church that is *truly* GLORIOUS ſeems raiſing here! — Bleſſed are my eyes that ſee it!"

About this time ſhe writes thus to Mr. TURNER concerning the SOCIETY: — "It is the *poor* that are to have the Goſpel preached to them: and bleſſed be GOD, here is a *glorious* TROOP; and highly favoured ſouls they are! OTHERS, want to be in the SOCIETY: and I think all that *deſire* it ſhould be admitted — that appear to have ſpiritual light and life, by their ſpeech and behaviour: — that leaving their old companions and practices, they may aſſociate together with one accord — praying, ſpeaking together, exhorting and edifying one another! They muſt be called — and we allow them to be — PROFESSORS before the *world*: but as we know not whether they will all *continue to the end*, we muſt

not call them *converted*, nor CHRISTIANS— till they *prove* themſelves ſuch, by *continuing ſtedfaſt* in the APOSTLES *doctrine* and *practices*; — of whom, I hope, here will be a GLORIOUS GOSPEL-CHURCH eſtabliſhed.

I firſt form into a SOCIETY thoſe who *profeſs* to be on the LORD's ſide. *This*, I think, will be a mean to preſerve from *extremes*: — from *neglecting* thoſe that appear concerned about their ſouls — and from making *too much* of thoſe appearances, which ſometimes *die away*. By this mean, thoſe that are *feeble* may be *ſtrengthened*: — for, ſurely, none want helps of every kind, more than *newly convinced* ſouls; — it ſeems unkind and unſcriptural, to ſlight and neglect thoſe, that appear to be — *babes in* CHRIST! So, you ſee, my beloved, I am to work a little in this vineyard — and, I believe, it is at my LORD's command!"

What oppoſition and ſucceſs ſhe met with in forming this SOCIETY, will be ſeen by part of a Letter to Miſs E. J——n: —

— "I left the dear people of TISBURY with much ſoul-ſatisfaction, and without fear — believing the adorable HEAD will repleniſh them out of that fullneſs there is in HIM; — that they will — all that are united to him by faith — receive grace for grace. The laſt week I was there, SATAN, by his emiſſaries, ſeemed to ſtride acroſs the road to weary me with fatigue — and prevent

prevent every ſtep that I took for ſettling them in goſpel order, and under proper encouragement and diſcipline: — but, bleſſed be the LORD — HE was my helper; and every thing that I deſired was brought to paſs!

A SOCIETY is eſtabliſhed for young converts to be admitted into, upon declaring what GOD hath done for their ſouls; ſix were added to it the laſt Lord's Day I was there. A CHURCH alſo is congregated, of thoſe who are more *eſtabliſhed*, conſiſting of twenty-three members — EBSBOURN and TISBURY together. And two ELDERS are ordained by prayer, to ſerve, ſupply, and watch over them — my Huſband's Brother for TISBURY, and a precious ſoul for EBSBOURN, that reſides there: — theſe have received the Lord's-ſupper together, once; and it appears likely they will have it monthly."

By this time the CHAPEL was nearly finiſhed: and the following extracts of Letters to Mr. TURNER, will ſhew, with what readineſs and willingneſs ſhe gave up her time and talents to the LORD: — and what ſacred encouragements ſhe was enabled to afford her Huſband, from time to time, to ſtrengthen his hands in the work: —

— "Don't be ſurprized, my dear Love, at receiving a Letter from me. Glory be to GOD, I have nothing but *good-tidings* to

 communicate!

communicate! Notwithſtanding my boaſting in the LORD ſo frequently as I do, of my freedom from creatures, and how little pain my connection with them gives me — *freedom*, I mean, from *over-valuing* them, — my Heart felt at parting with thee, and ſtill feels, the ſtrongeſt pangs I have ever yet felt! But glory be to GOD, I ſee and feel that I am in the path of *duty!* — am greatly delighted with the CHAPEL — it is the ſweeteſt place now the ſcaffolding is down! — Be ſtrong, my dear, be of good courage in this bleſſed work: — it is the moſt *honorable*, moſt *uſeful*, and ſhall I not ſay, moſt *delightful*, that creatures can be employed in! "*Fear not, only believe*" — that GOD calls and will bear you through! Read the prophet HAGGAI, read MALACHI, read the laſt chapter of ZEPHANIAH, and read NEHEMIAH — the experience of theſe dear brethren that have gone before us! — and may *we* follow *them* as they followed the LORD; and not take the *formaliſts*, the *lukewarm*, the *worldly minded* profeſſors — for our pattern! — I have been greatly refreſhed and ſtrengthened by thoſe ſcriptures I recommend to thee — thou *beloved* of my Heart!

I think it is the moſt pleaſing place I ever ſaw, of the kind: — the *neatneſs* of it, now it is finiſhed, is ſtriking to me — it ſo greatly exceeds my expectation! O! how

good

good the LORD is, ſo greatly to indulge his poor creatures — duſt and aſhes as we are! He knew our Hearts: — He knew our *aim* was to exalt HIM; to ſet HIM forth — to make HIM known: — and He ſtrengthens, teaches, and does *all* — in us, for us, with us, by us!

When I obſerve how exquiſitely fine and well the plaſterers temper their mortar — every ingredient ſo finely mixed, — I wiſh, I pray that I and my dear Huſband may be ſo well-tempered; every grace of the SPIRIT, every virtue, every thing that is for the REDEEMER'S glory — ſo mingled in our ſpirits, words and actions! I ſee, my dear, what fooliſh children we are, ſtill, in the ſchool of CHRIST: we expect ripe fruit from Trees while they are rooting: — at ſuch a ſeaſon, we ſhould be thankful for the leaſt ſymptom of life; and not expect fine rich juicy fruit. — The Plumb-tree Mr. W—— gave us helps me to this inſtruction.

Thurſday evening, paſt 9 o'clock. — I have had a moſt delightful viſit from Brother WILLIAM, and HENRY SNOOK: — *heavenly* conference we enjoyed together, and your dear Brother had ſuch bleſſed liberty in *prayer!* — Theſe two Converts are worth millions — praiſe the Lord; — there is ſuch *ſolidity*, *life*, and *power* in them!

Thy

Thy Brother is wiſer than the *aged;* — he is, indeed, a monument of *mercy!*

The weather is exceedingly boiſterous; but, glory be to GOD, I have a ſweet comfortable habitation! Oh, my dear, I do not wonder the beſt of men ſhould love *retirement!* were you but to live with me here — how *happy* ſhould I be! The near, the familiar, the ſweet acceſs to my heavenly Father, that he indulges me with, will rejoice you, I know, to hear — and prevent your kindly fearing or caring, with *loving anxiety*, for me! HE permits, and I am well ſatisfied! His DIVINE MAJESTY is pleaſed and ſmiles upon my ſoul, whilſt I beg Him to bleſs with the choiceſt of his bleſſings my beloved Huſband — to make up abundantly my abſence, with his loving preſence! Never, never was I more united to thee than I am here: — though abſent in Body am preſent in ſpirit — yea, one with thee!

My next great important requeſt — next to *that* for the renewal of my own nature; and that I, and my dear Huſband, may have heavenly diſpoſitions, and be truly meetened for Heaven here below — is; "that the LORD will be pleaſed to fill the Houſe we have built for HIS ADORABLE MAJESTY — with HIS BLESSED PRESENCE!"

In another Letter ſhe writes thus: —

— "Now

—" Now for a little converſe with my beloved Huſband — Glory be to GOD, who has ſo ſweetly united us in Himſelf! it is an indiſſoluble, an everlaſting union! "Here I am, the living, the living, to praiſe the LORD:" — want nothing — but you to be with me, to ſhare the *divine* pleaſure my ſoul ſo richly enjoys!

This is LIFE: — anſwering the end of our creation; in *attempt* at leaſt. Man's chief end is to glorify GOD, and enjoy him for ever. However MEN may ridicule, cenſure and blame, and even, *carnal formal* PROFESSORS *ſneer* — I muſt bear an honeſt teſtimony, at this time, to *thee* who canſt *credit* it, who wilt *believe* — " that I never lived and acted ſo much to my ſoul's ſatisfaction; — never had ſo ſtrong a witneſs of the SPIRIT, ſo clear evidence from the WORD OF GOD — of my being in the *right way*: — the way the PATRIARCHS, the APOSTLES, the *primitive* CHRISTIANS, trod, — the way of OBEDIENCE; — ſubmitting to be *taught* and *governed*, as well as *ſaved*, by the ADORABLE JESUS! — If the BIBLE is to be our rule of conduct, we are right, my beloved, we are right; however the zeal and love of many, is, now-a-days, waxing cold! — Let us now be content to be laughed at, by thoſe who think they are ſo much wiſer, in adding field to field, and houſe to houſe; and ſatisfy conſcience by the

the moſt ſtupifying opiates of — ſound creeds, decent behavior — or, any thing but — right *faith*, and true *devotedneſs* of — heart, lip, life, time, talents, ſoul and body — the WHOLE to be at the LORD's diſpoſal!

SATAN, I know, is a powerful foe, he made his firſt attack upon the WOMAN *alone*; and, if he find it will anſwer his purpoſe better, he will aſſault the MAN *alone*. Notwithſtanding he is indeed the HEAD, and ſuperior to woman; yet SATAN, by force or fraud, will make the attack: — but *reſiſt* him, my beloved — *reſiſt* him, and he will *flee!* — Thus *it is written!* —— The whole SCRIPTURE, from Geneſis to Revelations, points out a life of *faith* and *obedience* as our rule: — ſuch as thy wife, in a little meaſure — "*though faint, is* PURSUING!" JEHOVAH is on our ſide — and no matter who ſneers, and counts thee a fool, now!

For ſome time paſt I have felt ſtrong deſires for conformity to my LORD; and, now, it is *ſo* ſweetly explained to me that I am treading in his ſteps, in my little meaſure! — HE had love to ſouls; ſo ſhould *I!* Oh, what did HE leave; — what did HE do; — what did HE ſuffer! Words cannot expreſs the favors I receive of a *heavenly* kind — Every thing my ſoul *needs!*

I verily believe there is not a creature upon the earth under ſuch ſacred obligations

tions as *myſelf* — the *unworthieſt* — and yet *ſo bleſt!* The bleſſings vouchſafed to my ſoul in this place, are worth millions of gold! — And believe me, my dear, had I never received the leaſt token for good from my ADORABLE LORD; the multitude of *ſpiritual bleſſings* I ſee vouchſafed to *others*, are worth — *indeed* they are, and ten million times more — *all* the labour, *all* the expence, thou haſt beſtowed here!

Be ſtrong, my dear Thomas, be ſtrong in the LORD! We are acting in *his* name: HE is with us, and will ſtand by us! Great power my GOD gives me over the ſpirits of men here! Is it not written in HEBREWS — "Out of weakneſs were made ſtrong, "waxed valiant in fight, put to flight the "armies of the aliens!"

Concerning opening the chapel, ſhe writes thus to her couſins Johnſon: —

— "I ſhould acquaint you that the Chapel is almoſt finiſhed. I ſuppoſe it will be quite ſo, next week; but think it beſt to let it get dry before we open it: as the weather is ſo cold we can meet as uſual. I aſſure you, it is the moſt pleaſing place my eyes here behold: perhaps, the TABERNACLE at TROWBRIDGE, was firſt beheld with ſome of the ſame ſacred emotions of *gratitude*, *delight*, and *love!*

But come, my dear ſiſters, and invite as many of the Holy brethren as you can —

to

to help us give a *ſacred* SHOUT, that ſhall make HEAVEN *rejoice*, and HELL *tremble!* — You ſhall know when the day is fixed. Many here will lend *beds:* — ſome ſay, "They will ſit up all night themſelves, rather than there ſhould not be lodging for *Pilgrims* and *Strangers!*" — "Man liveth not by *ſleep* alone" — a BLESSED night could we have in *prayer* and *praiſe!*

A day or two before I came here, thoſe ſweet words thrilled through my ſoul — "*I am with thee!*" It is enough, my *deareſt* LORD, I cried: — having Thee, I poſſeſs all things — I want no more!"

To Mr. TURNER ſhe writes thus: —

— This is the firſt time I am ſat down at leiſure ſince my dear Thomas's abſence. O! how infinitely good is the LORD to me, the unworthieſt of his creatures! — He has been pleaſed to take from me every care about finiſhing things, and concluding matters, againſt the time appointed for opening the CHAPEL. I am not, muſt not be, a cumbered *Martha*, but — MARY — to be ever ever at the SAVIOUR's feet! It is *there alone* I am happy: — it is *there alone* I have true enjoyment! My whole heart is deſiring His bleſſed company, His ſpiritual preſence in his Houſe — and that he will bleſs the ſpiritual victuals with increaſe, and "ſatisfy his poor with bread," on that day! — He has promiſed, and I am

ſure

ſure he will — on *that* day, and in *future* days! — Glorious things ſhall be ſeen and felt!

On Sally's reading to me this morning, I was deeply affected with heart-felt grief and aſtoniſhment, at *two* things: — the *one* that my dear SAVIOUR, when in a body here upon earth, ſhould ſay, "He had not where to lay his head" — it made me *weep!* I breathed out my ſoul to Him, and ſaid, "He ſhould have had *my* houſe for his home, if I had ſeen him deſtitute!" And then I aſked myſelf, if I could, if I were willing — *now* to open my houſe to *his Members?* Yes, — glory be to GOD, who hath made us willing — we *are*, my dear Thomas, through his ſtrengthening us! Whatever *others* do, *we* will follow the Lamb of GOD, Whitherſoever he goeth — and to whatſoever he leads us — by his SPIRIT, WORD, and PROVIDENCE! And Oh! how ſweetly do I enjoy his ſpiritual preſence, at this time! He is with me in my heart, or there would not be ſuch delightful peace, and joy, and love!

The *other* thing which affected me, was, *Holy Grief* — that the GERGASENES ſhould beſeech him to depart out of their coaſts, becauſe they loſt a little ſubſtance, a *few ſwine!* — O my dear, what is *worldly* ſubſtance — what are *earthly* things, which are but for a moment, in compariſon of ETERNITY!

Every thing goes on wonderfully well! I have not the leaſt doubt, care nor fear, but all will be properly compleated againſt the time! I caſt every care upon my ALMIGHTY GOD — for I cannot *ſink*, but *ſoar!* — We ſhall have a PENTICOST bleſſing, my dear Thomas, — a great *out-pouring of the* SPIRIT, our ADORABLE SAVIOUR's ſpiritual preſence with us!

Invite *all* — for my heart is opened to *all* — that *love* the LORD JESUS! and here is abundance of room! My lines are caſt in a goodly place; my cup runs over! The LORD is my ſhepherd, and I ſhall want *no* good thing — "*no good* CROSS, nor *no good* COMFORT!" My kind love to all chriſtian friends; and as many as can, bid them come! O! how ſweet is my employment! My dear it was certainly the LORD that put it in our hearts to build this HOUSE, this little TEMPLE, this SANCTUARY, for the MOST HIGH to dwell in! Read what David ſays, on the ſame moſt ſolemn occaſion: He was a man after God's own Heart, genuinely and zealouſly devoted to Him, notwithſtanding all his Sins and Infirmities: — and by his grace and goodneſs, He has made *us* ſo too! Be of good courage, my dear, the LORD has accepted us in his *beloved* SON, and all our poor ſervices he is pleaſed with — it is our *beſt* we offer! It is inexpreſſible the divine

pleaſure

pleaſure I feel — the heart-cheering, ſoul-ſatisfying ſenſe I feel — of the DIVINE *approbation!*"

Wedneſday, May the 22, 1782, — the day the Chapel was opened, — was kept Holy to the LORD. Chriſtians of different denominations, came — according to thoſe kind invitations before mentioned — with their reſpective miniſters: — many of whom engaged in the public ſervices — morning, afternoon, and evening, — either in preaching or prayer; — and it was a time never to be forgotten!

It is ſcarcely poſſible for perſons who were ſtrangers to Mrs. TURNER, to conceive the joy the ſolemnities of that day afforded her! With her uſual affability ſhe received, and took more or leſs reſpectful notice of — *all.* No hurry, confuſion or diſtraction appeared in her, notwithſtanding ſhe had much to do: — but with as much eaſe as though ſhe was enjoying a private friend, ſhe dealt out the repaſt of her Table, — morning, noon, and evening, — between the ſacred ſervices, — to many large companies in ſucceſſion. And while one party was eating; others, were reſounding the high praiſes of their GOD through the houſe, by ſinging Hymns in the different apartments!

Having built and opened a TEMPLE for ſacred ſervice, ſhe had the happineſs of

ſeeing a continued increaſe of ſpiritual wor-ſhippers, and, with exquiſite delight, ſpent great part of her time at TISBURY; uſing every method PROVIDENCE put in her way, to inſtil divine knowledge into its inhabitants.

Jan. 3, 1783, She writes thus to her couſins while I was with her: —

— "In the midſt of the moſt ſacred, moſt beloved employments, I muſt converſe with my beloved Siſters, and acquaint them in ſome meaſure, with the nature of my preſent *enjoyments*. O, how good is my adorable TRIUNE GOD, to cauſe, ſuch great goodneſs to paſs before me! Marvellous is the proſperity of the Church, the ſpread of the Goſpel in this place!

My heart is fainting at the *greatneſs*, the *magnificence* — of the works of the *divine*, the *ſpiritual* SOLOMON! The few that were firſt planted here, grow and flouriſh wonderfully — are bleſſed with ſuch ſimplicity and Godly ſincerity, ſuch holy zeal and ſound minds, that they are neither *formal* nor *enthuſiaſtical!* Glory be to GOD — the FATHER, SON, and SPIRIT — they are living witneſſes in *word* and in *action!* Such power follows the public preaching, and ſuch numbers attend, that the Houſe is crouded; and the ſtillneſs and attention is greater than even at TROWBRIDGE!

Their

Their private meetings for *prayer* — of which they have two in a week; where men and women, the moſt unlikely, find liberty ſweetly to ſupplicate the Throne of Grace, and agree touching what they aſk, — are the moſt bleſſed meetings of the kind I ever attended!

Glory be to GOD, it is the beſt wine ſtill *at laſt!* — Who am I, or my father's houſe, that mine eyes ſhould behold ſuch great things! And the proſpect is, of abundantly *greater* — this little cloud portends much *greater* things!

Mrs. W——s is with me: — Our time is filled with directing enquiring Souls who flock to us, to behold the Lamb of GOD; and ſtrengthening the hands of thoſe who have already believed; ſo that we have ſcarcely time for our neceſſary food: — it is a little taſte of Heaven!

The good tidings firſt reached the hearts of the poor: and by the mighty power of GOD, they have been kept, each of them, adorning their profeſſion! This has had a bleſſed effect in removing prejudices, taking away ſhame, and emboldening others to join them; ſo there is a daily addition made to us: — and ſome of the ſober, judicious and ſenſible, of a *higher* claſs!

The LORD's work is carried on in the ſweeteſt and moſt powerful manner! The dear ſouls draw nigh to the Saviour, with-

out fear or doubting: and as freely confeſs his goodneſs to them, without ſhame! In general, men and their wives are called: — *ſome* almoſt together — *others*, but a ſhort interval between; — two or three exceptions — that yet bitterly perſecute and oppoſe: but the great wonders that have been wrought make us expect *greater* things! — Great *faith* is given to theſe dear people! Surely, this is as in ancient days — as we have *heard*, ſo have we *ſeen!*

One of the workmen that were employed at the chapel — far gone in a conſumption, — ſent for me ſoon after I came. I found him in the ſweeteſt, calm, peaceable, loving, ſubmiſſive frame of ſoul — more like a diſembodied ſpirit, than a ſuffering mortal! This bleſſed power is the effect of his cleaving cloſely to his SAVIOUR. He is taught *divinely* of the BLESSED SPIRIT to know *nothing* but JESUS! I talk to him of *nothing elſe* — I am ſatisfied *that* is ſufficient!

Glory, glory, glory be to GOD, for *dying* witneſſes, as well as *living!* O praiſe, praiſe the LORD! — He is *worthy!* He is *worthy!* — That ever He ſhould viſit this dark corner of the Land, with the light of his *glorious* GOSPEL! — Join me, my beloved ſiſters, in praying it may be ſent to other places! O! how many in this our native land are yet in the ſhadow of death!

At

At preſent, this appears to me the moſt delightful ſituation on earth: — my cup runs over!

" Tis Heaven to reſt in GOD's embrace;
And no where elſe but *there!*"

I could end my days here, if it were the will of GOD; — or, if it were his bleſſed will, leave it the next moment, to return no more! How good, how right, and, I can through grace add — how ſweet to my ſoul is his will!"

HER SOUL ſeemed wedded to this happy place, indeed! — She ſays in one Letter — " If I have a requeſt to make concerning this world, it is — for my dear Huſband and ſelf, to be permitted by the LORD, to reſort ſometimes to this ſweet retirement — from *buſineſs* from *buſtle!*" — In another Letter, ſhe thus expreſſes herſelf: — " I feel a deſire, if it be the will of GOD, that my dear Thomas and I, may be permitted to reſide much here! — Not a word is ever ſpoken here about *parties* or *opinions* — no crying *up* or crying *down* any of the LORD's ſervants; but ſtill it is the right one that comes; — the *fineſt* is the *laſt* — and He that *ſtays the longeſt* with them!" — The happy effects of this impartial loving ſpirit were — " a conſtant growth in every grace of the SPIRIT of GOD, and increaſe in ſimplicity and Godly ſincerity:" — as may be ſeen by the following account of their bleſ-

ſed

ſed ſtate, given in a Letter to Miſs J——n, in May 1783: —

" My beloved Siſter,

Grace, mercy and peace be ever with you! My heart feels moſt tenderly for you wherever I am! Great has been the goodneſs of GOD to me, the unworthieſt of creatures! Moſt delightfully did my time glide away with the dear chriſtians at TISBURY — that garden incloſed by divine grace! A heavenly fragrancy is upon them! — The all-glorious IMMANUEL is with them! — His ſtately goings are ſeen, and thoſe precious ſouls are reflecting his glory!

The communion and fellowſhip I have with them, is in a higher degree, of a purer nature — more ſpiritual, more pleaſing kind — than I have enjoyed with any body of people before! It is ſuch as I enjoy with particular perſons — and with you, my dear Siſter, in an eſpecial manner! And it is their *ſimplicity* and *godly ſincerity* makes it ſo ſweet. — Their Hearts are right with mine! — With united hearts, with one accord, we ſay, " All that the LORD our GOD would have us believe, or do, we pray him to teach and ſtrengthen us to conform to!" They object to no truth: — they wiſh to be ſtrengthened in all holy practices: — they grow marvelloufly in *knowledge* and in *love!*

Would

Would you think it, my dear Sister — can you believe me? — Here are some of the most enriched souls that I know! Oh! the power, the wisdom, the goodness of the LORD — it is wonderfully displayed here! — He *must*, he *shall* have all the glory!

If you can come and join us at the ANNIVERSARY of opening the CHAPEL, it will be to the increase of our happiness; or, if you can come after it: — but if *neither*, give glory to GOD on our behalf! You know the nature of CHRIST's Kingdom too well, to think we have any thing to display, any thing to boast of, or glory in — but GOD alone and the riches of His *grace!* But these dear people's hearts are so devoted, so divinely illuminated — and made willing, wise, and humble, teachable and thankful, — that I cannot but speak of the LORD's goodness to them!

Oh, that this Blessed SPIRIT may circulate through the whole CHURCH — every where, in every denomination — through the whole heart of every *individual* that names the name of CHRIST! May there be an universal departing from all evil! O my dear sister — "What evil Spirits are lurking under a profession of the Gospel, in many christian SOCIETIES — you and I are too well acquainted with!"

While she was thus employed, she evidently appeared to her friends to be declining

ing

ing in her health, notwithſtanding her ſpirits ſuffered no abatement. — Her all-ſupporting, all-merciful CREATOR and REDEEMER, having tried her in the various exerciſes ſhe had gone through, from profeſſors and profane, and finding her faithfull ot he Light and Grace given from above, and ripening apace for Glory, — graciouſly commanded the Harbinger of Death, to begin to cut the thread of her mortal life, and ſet her free from the priſon of the body, that her ſoul might enjoy the liberty and felicity of the Juſt made perfect — by cauſing the humours to croud themſelves into her right breaſt, and form an impoſthume; which occaſioned a ſudden ſhooting and momentary acute pain. Some days after, it returning again in the ſame manner, ſhe was led to examine the part, and found a tumor almoſt as big as a pidgeon's egg — and felt a preſentiment, that it would prove a *cancer*, and be the means of her ſpeedier removal to GLORY!

Though ſhe felt no terror at the thoughts of *death*, and found her will ſubmiſſive to the will of GOD, yet ſhe was conſtrained to ſay, with the Apoſtle, "I am in a ſtrait betwixt two," — whether to live, to the Glory of GOD and the good of his Church below, — or "to be diſſolved and be with CHRIST, which is far better!" For ſhe truly loved the militant Church, as ſhe expreſſe herſel

herſelf in a Letter to a friend, and was made to wiſh to ſpend and be ſpent a little longer on earth, for their ſakes, if the LORD ſhould ſee good: — Yet, knowing in whom ſhe had believed, and to whom ſhe had committed the keeping of her ſoul, and that he would reſtore it to GOD and Glory, at the day of her departure; ſhe felt a perfect *reſignation* to his will, and intended to leave the matter entirely with Him. — She would have avoided even the advice of the faculty, had not Mr. TURNER, fearing the loſs of ſo valuable a wife, inſiſted on her conſulting ſome of the moſt eminent amongſt them. — And ſhe, being always ready to oblige him — more particularly out of tenderneſs to his feelings in this caſe, — complied; and upon examination it was proved a *Cancer*. — THIS did not in the leaſt daunt her Chriſt-like ſpirit: but rather made her more earneſt to fill up the remainder of her days below entirely in the ſervice of precious ſouls. She therefore withdrew as much as poſſible from *worldly* buſineſs in order to ſpend and be ſpent wholly for GOD.

As the knowledge of her *cancerous* complaint was diffuſed, Receipts were ſent to her from all quarters, and generally were accompanied with aſſurances of their utility. Several friends took journeys to inforce their preſcriptions — which they thought infallible — by arguments founded on her duty

duty to her Huſband, her family, and the church of GOD — to which in ſo many places ſhe was a nurſing Mother. But they only diſtreſſed her generous mind; ſhe finding herſelf under a neceſſity to refuſe the uſe of one and all! —

The plain path of duty, pointed out to her from the firſt diſcovery of the diſorder, was, to comply with the requeſt of her huſband, and leave the event to GOD!

To her SURGEON and PHYSICIAN, ſhe was properly free to communicate the various changes of her conſtitution, and the progreſſive advances of the *cancer*: but to the enquiry of friends in general, replied, in a very familiar way, that — "ſhe had "as much eaſe or pain, as her Heavenly "FATHER ſaw fit for her." — She ſaw it her duty, and obtained, by prayer, fortitude ſufficient for it; to ſuffer in patient ſilence: and when her huſband or a friend preſent would ſay to her, "I fear you are in a great deal of pain;" ſhe would anſwer — "*A little — not too much!*"

Thus ſhe writes on the occaſion to Mr. TURNER, October 1783.

"Glory be to GOD who preſerved my beloved Huſband! My heart felt much at leaving thee expoſed to ſo much danger. After I parted from thee, I greatly regretted I had not followed the Chaiſe a mile or two,

two, to ſee how you went on: but we muſt walk by faith and not by ſight!

I was enabled to commend thee to the ALMIGHTY, conſidering, danger and ſafety is as he permits, and as is his bleſſed will: ſo here is freſh cauſe for a ſong of praiſe — HALLELUJAH! HALLELUJAH!

Bleſſed be GOD, I have had very little pain in my breaſt ſince: — beg you will not have the leaſt apprehenſion, for the LORD has given me to truſt in Him as my Phyſician; — and O! how able, how willing is He to help! It is better to truſt in HIM, than in *Men* or *means!* FAITH is His gift: — Glory be to his ADORABLE MAJESTY, He has been pleaſed to give it *me* — vile as I am, and weak as I am! I can truſt in Him with the greateſt confidence and without fear! — Glory be to Him, I am in good health of *body*, and happy in my *ſoul*; no evil occurrence is permitted to happen!"

In the ſame ſpirit of reſignation ſhe writes to Miſs E. J——n, Nov. 17, 1783; — after conſulting a ſurgeon and finding it to be a confirmed *cancer*: —

— "O what am I, or what is my father's houſe, that I ſhould be ſo bleſt, with bleſſings of the *upper* and *nether*, ſprings! The Love of my dear SAVIOUR, and the Love of his dear *people*, is ſo manifeſted to my ſoul, that it changes my pre-

ſent ſtate here upon earth, into a little Epitome — likeneſs to — yea, a degree of Heaven!

Thank you, my deareſt Siſter, for your ſweet affectionate Letter — it was a delightful cordial to me! I do pray, from my heart, that the will of the LORD may be done in me, and that my preſent affliction may be *ſanctified:* — and, I bleſs his name I *feel it is!* This world *does* leſſen in my ſight — I *do* die daily to things preſent!

I know there is no Evil but *ſin*; nothing that I ſhould fear but *that*: yet, my beloved ſiſter, my nature ſhrinks and recoils at the thoughts of — *extraction*: which, as my friends are ſo numerous. you may gueſs I have an abundance of kind, well-meant *loving* advice — about. I make a point never to aſk opinions, or to enquire after ſymptoms, of thoſe who have had *cancers*. At *preſent*, knowledge of this kind might be *hurtful*, and could not be *uſeful:* as it is not a caſe that I can help myſelf in, otherwiſe than by ſtrictly obſerving and adhering to the advice of my Phyſician — and looking up to *my* GOD for a bleſſing! But, as I was ſaying — until this morning, my nature dreaded the pain of *extraction*: for my dear huſband is now much diſcouraged, from what one and another ſays to him; that — unleſs he can give me up to die a moſt frightful painful death, and that perhaps

perhaps ſoon — it muſt be *extracted!* You ſee, my dear, it is his *tenderneſs:* — and the call is very clear to me, to give myſelf up with the moſt dutiful ſubjection, to his and Mr. C——N's advice!

This morning, whether ſleeping or waking, I am not certain; but — "I had ſuch a ſight and ſenſe of my dear SAVIOUR's *ſufferings,* and the pain that he felt — when his tender, delicate feet and hands were nailed to the croſs, with rough, ruſty, large nails driven through with a hammer — as if he were unfeeling wood, — by cruel malicious enemies; — and all this for *me,* to make *me* happy, to ſave *me* even from FEAR; — as I cannot expreſs!" He bids me take *no thought* — be *careful* for nothing; — promiſes *ſtrength* according to my day — that his grace ſhall be ſufficient for me; — ſo that I am *filled* with HEAVENLY *peace!* Fare-well!"

On the Chriſtmas following ſhe was ſeized with a violent fever. Her life was thought to be in great danger: — and from the different courſes it took, the *hopes* and *fears* of her family and friends were in conſtant exerciſe.

PRAYER was made without ceaſing — it was by many the *prayer* of *faith*; and, according to their hope and expectation, it availed! For *my own* part, I never was ſo drawn out to pray for any one's life be-

fore! I did not, till then, feel liberty to desire that my christian friends should be kept in the body's prison, longer than the LORD should in general see good! But on *this* occasion, I had such precedents from scripture brought to my mind, of the LORD's putting such cries in the hearts of his people, with a view to *answer* them; that I was emboldened to wrestle with him, like JACOB of old, and to say, "I would not let him go without a token for good!" At the same time I felt as strong desires, that the prolonging her days below, might be to the full and compleat purification of her Soul, and that she might be made perfectly and compleatly whole; — and be brought into all the heights and depths, of light, life, love and purity — that it was *possible* for saints to enjoy *in the body!*

After this fever a *pleurisy* seized her, in which few of her friends expected her life; yet were they still led to wrestle with the LORD for it! When brought to the mouth of the grave, she had a conviction — and spake of it very unreservedly — that it was not a sickness unto *death*, by a verse from scripture sent home to her heart with a powerful impression, that "she should yet live to be further useful to the Church, Ministers, and people of GOD!"

She was kept in such sweet *peace*, all the time of her illness, with her mind unremittingly

mittingly ſtayed on the *promiſes of* GOD, that it was moſt *animating* and *delightful* to ſee her! And there was ſuch a conſtant ſweet ſolemnity upon her ſpirit, and ſo much of the preſence of GOD, felt in her ſick chamber, that it was like being in the HOLY of HOLIES; and brought theſe Lines of Dr. YOUNG frequently to my mind —

"The ſick-bed of the JUST is privileged,
Beyond the common walk of virtuous life;
Juſt in the verge of HEAVEN!"

THE PROFANE, if he entered the chamber, could not but draw near with awe! No converſation but what was truly *ſpiritual*, was carried on there — indeed, no one *ſpake*, but herſelf, more than what was abſolutely neceſſary! So watchful and attentive were an affectionate *Nurſe* and *Aſſiſtants* to our dear friend, that the motion of the head, or hand, commanded every thing — by this means every degree of renewed ſtrength was preſerved!

Would it not be well, if this conduct in treating the *ſick* were univerſally adopted? For notwithſtanding Mrs. TURNER wiſhed to ſee every chriſtian friend, of every denomination, who was deſirous of being admitted to her; yet they were ſilent in her preſence, unleſs called to ſpeak of *ſpiritual* things, to *read* or *pray* by her: — and only ſhewed their *love* by attending to the

gracious words that flowed from her lips — full of *love* to GOD, and to his *people!* And as a *divine* influence accompanied all ſhe ſaid, at that time; ſo ſhe had ſtrength given her from on high, ſometimes, to ſpeak for ten minutes together, without wearineſs to her weak frame — while UNPROFITABLE talk would make her juſt ready to *faint!* And when, fearful of exhauſting her own ſtrength, ſhe deſired a friend to improve a long and ſacred ſilence, by reading aloud ſome portion of SCRIPTURE; — there was generally ſuch an *unction* of the SPIRIT of GOD reſting on both *ſpeaker* and *hearers*, as is eaſier *felt* than *deſcribed!*

This *viſitation* held two months: — at the expiration of which time, ſhe was ſo far reſtored, as to be capable of ſeeing company and taking a little air. Her *firſt* viſit was to her *beſt* friend: — In his Houſe, and in the preſence of all his people, ſhe paid the vows ſhe had made, and bore teſtimony that GOD is LOVE — even when he *moſt afflicts* his people!

As ſoon as her ſtrength would permit, ſhe viſited her beloved TISBURY; and began to think of means by which ſhe might introduce the GOSPEL into the adjacent Towns and Villages. Her friends moſt cordially congratulated her on her recovery: — but ſhe gave them to underſtand — from the rapid progreſs the *cancer* was now

now making, — that ſhe ſhould be an inhabitant of *this world* but a little while longer, and therefore was deſirous to keep ETERNITY in *view* — to be as much diſengaged from *temporal* concerns as poſſible, and wholly to devote the reſidue of her days to the LORD! She ſpent the moſt of her time at TISBURY, from whence ſhe writes as follows to Mr. TURNER: —

— "I hope my beloved reached home, and found all well. May every Bleſſing, *ſpiritual* and *temporal*, be increaſed and multiplied to thy dear ſelf, and family! Mayeſt thou be abundantly bleſt for lending me to the LORD! And may I ever conſider the vows that are upon me; the ſacredneſs of my obligations; and be more and more devoted to his ſervice! I am not my own; — am bought with a price — moſt *precious* and *invaluable!*

When you and your two companions left me, yeſterday, I felt myſelf bereaved of my greateſt *earthly* good: but went to my *adorable, all-ſufficient all-ſufficing* GOD — begged him to take care of and bleſs you *both*, and make up your loſs to me; — and glory be to his name, HE *has*, HE *does!* I feel you intimately near: I love you more dearly, I enjoy you more than ever; — have much delight in praying for thee — thou *beſt, kindeſt, tendereſt* of huſbands!

But

But I forget that if I do not talk a little about my body, thy affectionate heart will feel and fear ſomething bad: Glory be to GOD! I enjoy great eaſe; have had an exceeding good night — more ſleep than common.

Saturday — Another good night to be thankful for, and a well-day: my breaſt is remarkably eaſy: — almoſt the whole day in the Garden. Glory be to GOD, for the good tidings of your Letter! My dearly beloved in the LORD, be of good cheer: we ſhall, even in *time*, be bleſt together more than we have ever yet been! My late *uſeful neceſſary* afflictions, are only to teach and inſtruct me. Bleſſed be the LORD, I feel them for my good — and for thy comfort! Forgive, my beloved, forgive thy poor *penitent* wife, for ſo often *chiding*, *contradicting*, and *diſobeying* thee — not becauſe there was *occaſion* for it, but becauſe — it croſſed and thwarted *my* SELF-WILL!

I believe the complaint in my breaſt will be ſtill *uſeful* — never *dreadful*. You may juſtly ſay, "it appears not the more frightful to me as it increaſes, but leſs and leſs ſo" — praiſed be the LORD! Do not, my beloved, have an anxious thought about me; I *know* I am intereſted in ſuch *bleſſed promiſes* of an ALMIGHTY SAVIOUR, that "I cannot *fear* any thing — but *Sin!*"

In

In another Letter to the ſame ſhe writes thus:

—" Glory be to GOD! I have had a good night; —am much refreſhed by ſleep; — made a good breakfaſt; — and have had but little pain in my breaſt. — Have had a new convert to converſe with this morning — a very precious woman; — and have heard of another,

Poor Jenny B——'s window by her bedſide is *ſo ſhattered*, that the ſnow beats in upon her bolſter; the wind blowing away the bits of paper and rags — and ſhe has taken a violent cold. There muſt be a new window-frame for this family of Heaven, over whom we have the Honor and Happineſs to be made ſtewards! Mr. W—— and daughter, and Jenny and B— likewiſe — as they are not able to pay any rent, and THOU art apt to be *unbelieving* — "I ſent thee a *promiſſory-note* to *pay their rent*:"—

— It is not the *note* of a common man; — it is not the *note* of a KING, that *may* grow *poor* — witneſs, the Babylonian monarch; — But of the *Almighty*, *Everlaſting*, *Ever-faithful* JEHOVAH — ſpoken by his SPIRIT in man — " HE that hath *pity* on the POOR, *lendeth to the* LORD; and BEHOLD — *whatſoever he doth, it ſhall be* REPAID HIM AGAIN!" — You will find it in the PROVERBS by the help of the concordance."

In

In another Letter she speaks thus:

" My dear Thomas,

Glory be to GOD! I can assure thee, my health of body increases very much, since the weather has been warmer. The catching of my breath is much abated — almost gone; and the inward soreness I have felt since my illness, is removing apace. It is astonishing to me, how much my health has improved these two days — it appears to myself almost miraculous! Glory be to our adorable TRIUNE GOD! my breast, I do think, is better — as my health increases, my strength returns." —

And it was wonderful to see, that so soon after such an illness, and with an increasing confirmed *cancer* in her breast, she should be enabled to exert herself so much in the cause of GOD as she did; — by talking, writing to, and instructing — by *precept* and *example* — many *new* and *old* professors of the Gospel; and — walking, sometimes, five or six miles on a day for their benefit!

She was enabled likewise to celebrate another ANNIVERSARY of opening the CHAPEL at TISBURY: and to exert herself, as usual, to the glory of GOD, and the profit, instruction, and comfort of her visitants on the occasion. — June 1784 she writes to *me* thus:

My

" My beloved Sister,

I wrote to you from hence a few weeks ago, acquainting you with the great ease of *body* and peace of *mind*, our ADORABLE GOD is pleased to bless me with; and which, I must add, he is pleased to continue and increase — Glory, increasing Glory, be to Him! — May I be devoted to his divine *will*, to his blessed delightful *service*, as much as a human creature can! — His *will*, his *law*, is my delight!

Great *peace* I am favored with, and nothing but *sin* doth offend me! " The place of my defence is, the munition of Rocks: my bread is given me, my water is sure!" FEAR does not come nigh me: — unless it be the fear of *sinning* against *my* EVER-BLESSED and ADORABLE GOD — who is pleased to call a *worm* — HIS *friend*, — to call HIMSELF *my* GOD — *my* HUSBAND — BROTHER — FATHER! I have nothing to do on earth, but to glorify Him for his great goodness! I only desire to *live*, that I may *live* to HIM; or *move*, but to HIS *praise*: — " for *me* to *live* is CHRIST, to *die* is GAIN!" —

— Speaking of an illness with which I was afflicted at that time, she says — " My dear sister, you well know, " whom the LORD *loveth* he *chasteneth*." The *beloved* SON, our ADORABLE SAVIOUR — how did HE suffer — how was HE afflicted! What did HE feel, that our afflictions might be *sanctified* —

fied — made *ſalutary* to our ſouls! Cleave to him, my ſiſter, open your whole heart to him! He invites you; — He will bleſs you yet more and more! He *will* bleſs the houſe of ISRAEL, He *will* bleſs the houſe of AARON! — Dear Mr. Sloper preached from theſe words, in the afternoon of the ANNIVERSARY: Mr. Parſons Senior, from BATH, in the morning, on "The great *Trumpets* being blown at the JUBILEE:" and Mr. Clark, in the evening, from — "*I am the* WAY."

We had eleven dear Embaſſadors of CHRIST; and the Rev. Mr. C——s came in the evening, and made the number twelve. It was a glorious, moſt delightful day — the ſweeteſt ANNIVERSARY! What — I muſt not ſay *Where* — will my *next* be? Whether it be on *Earth*, or in *Heaven*, I ſhall be glad to have my dear friends withme!"

The Lord's day following this feſtival, of keeping the ANNIVERSARY of opening the CHAPEL at TISBURY, two of the miniſters remaining with her, ſhe ſaw an opportunity put into her hand, of carrying the goſpel to HINDON; — and thus ſhe ſpeaks of it in the ſame Letter: ——

"The Rev. Mr. C——s and Mr. Surman, remained here the ſucceeding Lord's day. As we had a ſpare Miniſter, we likewiſe had power given us, in the name and ſtrength of JESUS, to carry the precious goſpel

goſpel to HINDON — *notorious* HINDON — *wicked to a* PROVERB! — Previous to it, we ſent a meſſenger to inform the people, that a Clergyman would come on the enſuing ſabbath, at any time of the day that would not interfere with the church ſervice, and at any place they ſhould appoint. Many ſaid — yea all ſhe ſpake to, "*They were glad of it!*" One woman ſaid "She hoped it would do her wicked *ſons* good, as it had Henry Snook," with whom one of them worked, and of whom ſhe remarked, that "Though he was once ſo *wicked*, yet now, there was not a *profane* word dropt from his lips!" — The time appointed was, half after one — we likewiſe publiſhed it at our Saturday-evening's meeting here.

I had a Chaiſe from HINDON to carry the Rev. Mr. C——s, myſelf and maid: and we were accompanied by two brethren on horſeback, and a numerous train of friends from hence. Some, that were only well-wiſhers to us, ſaid, "They would go to take our parts:" — for knowing HINDON to be ſuch an *abandoned wicked* place, the people here thought we ſhould be cruelly treated.

But the quietneſs and attention of the people was aſtoniſhing, notwithſtanding the preaching was in the open ſtreet! Their *number* — almoſt the *whole* TOWN — aſſembled in about five minutes! Their good be-

 havior; —

havior; — the ſoft and ſweet ſpirit of the heavenly meſſenger; — and the tenderneſs, and heavenly love, conveyed in his meſſage of the prodigal ſon; — and his inſiſting more particularly on the father's readineſs to receive him; — the calmneſs of my own ſpirit — were beyond deſcription delightful! as well as the divinely-powerful *prayers*, and harmonious *ſinging!* Praiſe the LORD my dear friend, — All Glory be to HIM!

Yeſterday, my ſoul was almoſt enraptured, with the account of ſeveral that wept, and could not ſleep at night: — not only *weak* WOMEN, as the world phraſe it — but *ſtout-hearted* MEN: — It is the LORD's doing; it is MARVELLOUS in our eyes!

Betty Sanders, fearing your illneſs might be unto *death*, wiſhed me to engage Miniſters for A——n; but it muſt be left to the HEAD of the Church, whoſe goings ſhall be ſeen in the ſanctuary: — who walks amidſt his GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS, and "*ſends* by whom he *will ſend!*" Very few Miniſters have put their names for TISBURY: but as my truſt is in the LORD, I have no more *fear*, than I ſhould if the book were filled with names! — It is all known to the GREAT DIRECTOR — and his book of PROVIDENCE muſt be read by us!"

It

I mention this latter part of her Letter, to preſerve her REMARK; which is very weighty, and ſhews the ſtrength of her *Confidence*. — Were that *Confidence* always repoſed in GOD by his creatures, and his PROVIDENCE more minutely obſerved, with a deſign to have our *faith* ſtrengthened in his *promiſes*, we ſhould eſcape much unneceſſary perplexity, and our *peace*, like a river, would flow *uninterruptedly!* — For want of this *Confidence*, we know, by experience, *that* "fear which hath torment."

NOTWITHSTANDING Mrs. TURNER'S occaſional intervals of eaſe, and ſuch refreſhments as ſhe ſpeaks of in her Letters, her diſorder was inſenſibly increaſing: nor was ſhe longer able to conceal its progreſs from her moſt dearly beloved relative; but was obliged to confeſs that it did not appear to *amend*; as in the following Letter, dated, May the 3d 1784: —

— "As it would make my beloved Huſband happy, I wiſh I could ſay, I was confident my breaſt was better: but, at times, think it is; and ſometimes, that it is not." — In another Letter to him, ſhe ſays, — "Oh my dear, it is better to truſt in the LORD, than to put any confidence in *man!* what can *man* do without the DIVINE BLESSING? — and *that* can do every thing, without the help of *man!*

Give me up to GOD: — not only *leave* me but *give* me to be employed in any thing, and done with as HE pleaſes; — and you will taſte the ſweeteſt felicity! How can I aſk for health and ſtrength, but to uſe it to his *glory*: and now, I *can*, I *do*, humbly tell him, "I cannot *ſerve Him* — unleſs he is pleaſed to ſtrengthen me."

Mr. TURNER's Mother being ſeized with the ſmall-pox, was to this moſt affectionate and beſt of wives, a call in providence to return to TROWBRIDGE: A ſervant was infected with the ſame diſorder: — *theſe* were objects of cloſe attention to her! The exertions ſhe uſed, and the fatigues ſhe underwent, ſo overcame her weak decaying frame, that ſhe was obliged to return again to TISBURY, for a little relaxation and change of air! But at the ſame time, felt a deſire to be a ſharer in her Huſband's toils. — Thus ſhe expreſſes herſelf on the occaſion: —

— "I want to aſſiſt thee in the toils of Life, my beloved, and to ſhare thy fatigues! I have had an idea, this morning of your many quick-moving wheels, to keep me — a larger ſlower one — moving at this diſtance. Great fatigues, great weight, great care fall upon you all: — each member of the family that faithfully diſcharges his truſt, may GOD bleſs with every token of his ſpecial favor! I am bound

bound to *love* and *pray* "for you, which I conſtantly do!" — In another Letter ſhe writes thus: —

— "My breaſt has been, for ſome days, uncommonly eaſy; and I never have ſuch a degree of pain as to render my ſituation uncomfortable.

I am ſtill the moſt favoured of creatures; and at this time feel myſelf the moſt unprofitable: — can do ſo little for the glory of my GOD, and that I *do* — I do ſo *ill!* I am the moſt ignorant, awkward, fooliſh child: — have deep humbling views of *myſelf*, but moſt exalted ones of my *adorable* GOD! His *Goodneſs* to me is inexpreſſible!

The dear people here are ſtill greatly bleſt: — the work widens and deepens in many hearts; and I am much bleſt with them, notwithſtanding their trials and temptations.

My dear Nieces ELIZA, and FRANCES C——K will give you a journal, ſo I forbear: but I muſt tell you "They are the *ſweeteſt*, *ſimpleſt*, moſt *devoted* ſouls I ever knew, of their age — they ſhame *me*, whilſt I am thankful for *them!*" — I deſire to follow *them*, as they follow CHRIST. — Not once have they ſpoken the leaſt offenſive word! Their chriſtian *wiſdom* and *humility* is admirable, and their *charity!* — May you, my beloved, enjoy them as I

 have!

have! adieu; — Come ſoon as thou canſt, and viſit

Thy ever-loving

JOANNA TURNER."

Her diſorder began now to make a rapid progreſs, and her ſtrength to decline apace. Knowing the ſtrength of Mr. TURNER's affection, and the tenderneſs of his diſpoſition, ſhe choſe to conceal it, as long as poſſible, from him: yet to a boſom-friend, whom ſhe knew to be ſtrong in the LORD, and able to bear loſſes with fortitude, ſhe ſpeaks freely on her caſe. — In a Letter to her moſt *valuable*, and highly *valued* companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of JESUS CHRIST, Miſs J —— n, ſhe writes thus — juſt before ſhe made her laſt viſit to TISBURY:

My beloved Siſter,

My dear huſband acquainted you that we reached home ſafe. I bore the journey as well as I could expect. Bleſſed be the LORD, I am comfortably eaſy this day — have had conſiderable pains ſince I left you; but think I am mending again, having loſt my fever and regained my appetite, in a great meaſure.

Thus far I wrote, intending to ſend by *Vale* on Friday, but was prevented by neceſſary buſineſs. Monday morning.

Glory be to GOD! my maid was yeſterday enabled, for the firſt time ſince the ſmall.

ſmall-pox, to viſit the LORD's Houſe at the two o'clock meeting, to return her public thanks; nor does ſhe appear to have taken cold.

Yeſterday, I reflected much on our heavenly father's gracious dealings with us, in the afflictive diſpenſations of his providence. Very few of his own moſt bleſſed days, have our whole family attended at his Houſe, ſince the commencement of the year 1784. Before this date, ſince my dear Huſband's union with me, we and our houſehold have had almoſt conſtant opportunities of worſhipping together — on his day: — and, the greateſt part of them, on every other occaſion: — "Bleſs the LORD, O our Souls; and all that is within us, bleſs his holy name!"

And now, my beloved, I find my outward man growing *weak* — perhaps *decaying!* I may grow ſtronger: — but I know I muſt leave the dear militant church, to which I am moſt ſincerely and affectionately united, with a little degree of heavenly union! I feel no ſhyneſs, no ſtraitneſs, to any of thoſe bleſſed ſouls, who are led by the SPIRIT according to the *Divine* WORD — I am one with them, as they are one with my adorable LORD!

I feel an inexpreſſible union, already, with the Saints *in glory*; and equally the ſame, to thoſe — known or unknown — *in the*

the body. — Their *nearneſs* to my LORD, their *likeneſs* to Him, ſeems the ſtrongeſt tie, the moſt powerful attractive to me — as well to thoſe on Earth, as to thoſe in Heaven!

My adorable LORD bleſſes me more than ever! — I have, for ſome years, been longing to enjoy Him, and to be more weaned from *earth!* — not to grow diſcontented, nor unhappy; not pining after, nor even deſiring — HEAVEN, contrary to His *Bleſſed* WILL!

O, how good HE is in HIMSELF to *me*, at times! He is LOVE — moſt *loving* to *me* in all his dealings! My ſoul has, for theſe twenty years, adored Him as a GOD of *love* — taſted the conſtant ſweetneſs of being *accepted in the* BELOVED: and *now* the beſt wine runs *at laſt* — my cup runs over! HE ſtrengthens me according to my day — ſo richly ſupplies — ſo ſweetly ſupports me! HE manifeſts *Himſelf* to *me* in every character — in every capacity — in every time of need! I truſt alone in HIM: HE permits me, HE invites me!

The other morning I awoke delightfully with thoſe words, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee, and thou ſhalt glorify me!" — Not once am I deprived of the means of grace, of viſiting the LORD's Houſe! Early and late meetings do I attend, through his ſtrengthening me, without fear of harm: — converſe with friends

friends as uſual, and viſit as much as I can!

Never, never, I think, had any a more bleſſed diſmiſſion from earth! for I muſt tell you, my beloved ſiſter, that my moſt *profitable* moſt *uſeful* diſorder, at preſent, increaſes much, both in *pain* and in *ſize*. But as my adorable LORD increaſes my *ſtrength* in proportion, it is not, nor do I believe it ever will be, hard to be borne— He will "never *leave* nor *forſake* me!"

On Wedneſday, my dear Huſband purpoſes taking me, and our dear viſiters M——, and Miſs R——t, to TISBURY. If I ſhould find benefit from the air, I ſhall ſtay there two or three weeks; but if not, will return with them, and continue with my dear family at TROWBRIDGE.

Wherever I am, I ſhall be happy to ſee you.—God will ſupport you according as you require.

I beg you will take care of your bodily health.—I ſee it a greater duty than ever; though I have not the leaſt reflection to make on, nor conſciouſneſs of ever neglecting—*myſelf*.—Glory be to GOD, it is His heavenly will;—"All is PEACE and HARMONY *within!*"

Farewell, my beſt beloved ſiſter:—What have we enjoyed together on EARTH!—but what is it all to what we ſhall enjoy together in HEAVEN, and to all ETERNITY!

I am often aſked the queſtion, "Whether we ſhall know one another in Heaven?" — and I conſtantly ſee it right to anſwer, with the greateſt readineſs — YES! — Grace, mercy, and peace, reſt conſtantly upon you — continually prays

Your affectionate

J. TURNER."

It evidently appears from this Letter, as well as from the hints ſhe occaſionally dropped, and the exceeding great *Spirituality* of her frame, that ſhe knew the time of her *departure* was at hand.

She paid her laſt viſit to TISBURY: — and, in the following poem, we ſee, what were her feelings at parting with one of the *beſt* and moſt *beloved* of Huſbands: — notwithſtanding ſhe was made willing to ſubmit to the loſs of his company, ſo frequently, and for ſo long a time together, for the ſake of being uſeful to precious ſouls.

Tiſbury, Sept. 1784.

"'Till crooked turnings took thee from my ſight,
My much lov'd T——, I watch'd thee with delight!
Preſerve him, O my GOD, with tendereſt care;
Let man and beaſt thy kind protection ſhare!
Bleſt COMFORTER, deſcend into his breaſt,
And ſweetly ſooth his feeling heart to reſt:
Inſpire and animate his precious ſoul,
And every jarr in nature, now control!
How eaſy this, my GOD, for thee to do;
Give but *thyſelf*, and all things we let go

In

In ſweet ſubmiſſion to thy ſacred will;
Yet thy dear Gifts we love for thy ſake ſtill!
We love each other, and ſhall ever love;
'Tis GOD's command, and ſure he muſt approve!
O favor'd creatures we, to be ſo bleſt,
On earth to have ſo large a ſhare of reſt;
Bleſt in each other, and by GOD careſt!
Let us, my love, in ſtrict obedience live,
And our whole ſelves to our dear JESUS give,
To ſave, to uſe, to order as he pleaſe!
This is the happy way to live in eaſe.
By bleſt experience, this I know full well,
And with delight, my bleſt experience tell,
Myſelf the happieſt mortal now on earth,
An heir of Glory, by my heavenly birth,
And having CHRIST, with Him, I *all* poſſeſs;
Am happy, rich, and full, he doth ſo bleſs!
Sure, in a goodly place my lines are caſt:
My cup runs o'er; of heavenly joys I taſte!
So much of heaven, while here, vouchſaf'd to me,
Think you, my dear, I ſhall ſuch glory ſee
When dull mortality is chas'd away,
And my clogg'd ſpirit parted from its clay,
As thoſe whoſe life to *ſuffering* was a prey?
The bleſſed, joyful, holy change to me
Will be amazing only in degree!
If I conceive aright, the *ſuffering* throng,
Will more enjoy, and ſing a loftier ſong!
None, more than I, have greater cauſe to praiſe,
My burſting heart ſhall EBENEZER's raiſe!
Where'er I ſit, where'er I rove abroad,
I ever find a preſent ſmiling GOD!
JESUS, IMMANUEL, MEDIATOR — *near*,
GOD *reconciled* — *theſe* names forbid my fear.
Heav'n, earth, is mine! O how a worm can boaſt!
Nor fear attacks from a whole helliſh hoſt,
While I on JESUS ſtill alone rely,
Obey my GOD, and ſinful *Self* deny!"

The

The following Letter to Mr. TURNER, will deſcribe a little of that ſweet ſubmiſſion to, and chearful reliance on, the will of PROVIDENCE; with which ſhe was enabled to reſign up herſelf, and her dear ſpiritual nurſery at TISBURY, into the hands of her DIVINE MASTER — juſt before ſhe took her leave of her beloved charge: —

— " Thank you, my dear dear Love, for all your care of, all your kindneſs to — thy poor *unworthy* — but *affectionate* wife!

Glory be to GOD — the Goſpel greatly flouriſhes in theſe parts! Great is the peace, the privileges, we enjoy! Three from EBSBOURN — one of them a bleſſed ſhepherd — after he had folded his flock, dreſſed himſelf and came, with his two companions, to our evening preaching on Saturday, — as he could have no preaching the next day — and returned home after it.

The zeal, the love, the ſimplicity and humility of the dear people there, and here, and of the new converts at HINDON, are moſt pleaſing! With pleaſure I dwell among them; — with delight ſhall leave them in ſuch a ſoul-proſpering ſtate, and in ſuch hands — as my bleſſed and adorable LORD's — who " *doth all things well!*"

Praiſed be his name, he doth ſtill bleſs me with much ſweet *eaſe*; and, *ſometimes* — a little *pain*; — but *ſo ſweetened* with HIS *loving* PRESENCE and *divine* SUPPORT, that my

my affliction ſeems the lighteſt, the ſweeteſt of any I know! — Glory, glory, glory be to FATHER, SON, and SPIRIT — for ever and ever!" —

THUS did the LORD continue to bleſs her labours at TISBURY, to the laſt moment of her dwelling among them. I was with her the Chriſtmas after the chapel was opened, and was made truly glad, in ſeeing the *grace* of GOD prevail over the moſt *ſelf-righteous* and *boaſting* PHARISEES, as over the moſt *looſe* and *abandoned* characters, who had no reputation in the world to preſerve. And many that were particularly eſteemed among their neighbours, for their wiſdom and prudence, and attendance on their church and ſacrament, were conſtrained to be accounted fools for CHRIST ſake — the elderly and ſober men, as well as women and children.

One young girl, died happy in the faith of CHRIST, in leſs then a year after; and exhorted all her friends and relations to be acquainted with and to cleave cloſely to CHRIST: — as the following extract of a Letter to me from my dear *deceaſed* friend, will teſtify: —

" Laſt Friday evening, dear Betty M — was buried at TISBURY: — ſhe died in the moſt triumphant manner! — ſaid, " She had never ſo much *comfort* in her life: — that if ſhe had all that earth could

afford in one hand, and death in the other, ſhe would let all go, to embrace *death*;" — exhorted all about her, and ſent the moſt *ſolemn* meſſage to *me!* Glory be to GOD — Who am I, to be thus highly favoured, thus *loved* by his dear people!"

ANOTHER, who had been a backſlider in grace, was brought back again; and there was great hope in his death.

WOMEN, opened their mouths ſweetly in prayer-meeting: — and a *boy*, told his father — after hearing a miniſter preach on the duty of *family-prayer*, — that if his FATHER did not *pray* in the *family*, HE muſt! And the *boy* prayed, both in the family and church, occaſionally, from that time: — and early in the year 1785 in the ſixteenth year of his age, after being under the tuition of a worthy Miniſter a few months only, was called forth to *preach* the goſpel; and goes on exerciſing his gift, to the ſatisfaction and edification of many ſerious congregations — though but *eighteen!*

Mrs. TURNER remarked — and it is the remark of the moſt ſpiritual — "that thoſe who keep cloſeſt to the private meetings, religious converſation, and prayer, were by far the moſt *proſperous* in their ſouls;" — though *theſe meetings* are now ſo lightly eſteemed by many flaming profeſſors!

Before ſhe left this favored ſpot, ſhe invited all her ſiſters in the LORD, to drink tea

tea and ſpend an afternoon with her: and ſhewing them the rapid progreſs the *cancer* was making in her breaſt, ſhe endeavoured to comfort their hearts, and encourage them to put their truſt in the LORD for help, when their creature-comforts failed — by relating to them, the *experience* ſhe had of his tender care and providential dealings towards her, from the womb to the preſent moment. — And when I read a copy of theſe MEMOIRS to them, I had the ſatisfaction of finding every circumſtance related by *me*, to be the ſame they had ſo recently received — from *her own* lips! —

AFTER ſhe had warned every one to flee from ſin, holding up JESUS as the refuge to flee unto — and exhorted the bleſſed SOCIETY of brethren and ſiſters, to cleave unto the LORD and to one another, ſhe returned to TROWBRIDGE; — to prepare for and keep the fourteenth ANNIVERSARY, in commemoration of the goodneſs of GOD to the SOCIETY of chriſtians in that place — of which ſhe had been ſo uſeful and valuable a member!

DIVINE INFLUENCE, as uſual, crowned the day: and though Mrs. TURNER's ſpeech and appearance were evidently altered, yet ſhe manifeſted much chearfulneſs: — attended worſhip twice, and ſpake of the loving-kindneſs of the LORD with uſual confidence and earneſtneſs. — Every

one was glad to give to, and receive from her, a token of *love* and *eſteem:* — ſome, in particular, were much affected with the idea, that ſhe would not make one in the *next* annual aſſembly. Her REMARKS were pertinent to every hint of that nature; and among other things, ſhe ſaid — "It was immaterial, whether ſhe worſhipped in the CHURCH-*militant*, or *triumphant!*"

She made a point of it to *complain* as little as poſſible; and not being able to give her friends the information they wiſhed to receive, — ſhe continued to be, what from the commencement of her diſorder ſhe *had been* — an example of ſuffering *affliction*, and of *patience*; — therefore, when any enquired after her health, ſhe would ſay — "ALL IS WELL!"

Very ſoon after the ANNIVERSARY ſhe took to her *room*; and, a few days after — to her *bed*. — The time now drew near that ſhe muſt *die*; but "mark the PERFECT, and behold the UPRIGHT!" — We have traced her *through life*; let us view her *in death*. — She diſcovered more of SUBMISSION than of RAPTURE.

THESE are ſome of the SAYINGS which dropped from her lips: —

— "I have had a *pleaſing* paſſage through LIFE, and have caſt ANCHOR" — whether prevented from finiſhing the ſentence, we cannot

cannot tell; but we preſume ſhe would have added — "*on* CHRIST JESUS!"

When ſhe was aſked "If ſhe was happy?" ſhe replied, "I am not in RAPTURE; — but I enjoy *conſtant* PEACE!" She was much affected with the PRAYERS and TEARS of her ſurrounding friends on earth, and, by way of apology, ſaid, "My *paſſions* are touched — feeling for thoſe I *love!*" On another occaſion, ſhe ſaid, "RELIGION is LOVE — and *I do love my* GOD; — yet, I wiſh I could *love* him *more!*"

Addreſſing herſelf to Mr. TURNER, ſhe ſaid, "Take care of your health, my Love, and cleave unto the LORD!" And to Mr. CLARK, her Paſtor, ſhe ſaid, "I "commend to you the cauſe of CHRIST; "and wiſh you to remember TISBURY: — "you know, I AM NOTHING; *that*, is my "*funeral*-text: I have conſtantly felt my- "ſelf to be — NOTHING *in myſelf*: — my "meaning is — to give "ALL THE GLO- "RY TO GOD!" He, perceiving that her time on earth could not be long, diſcourſed on *death*: — She ſaid "She conſidered *death* as a duty ſhe owed to GOD, as his command; — and would deſire to go through it, as every other duty — in *obedience to* HIS WILL." Being aſked, therefore, "If ſhe *wiſhed* to die?" ſhe anſwered, "No: ſhe did not *prefer* death; for ſhe had no reaſon to be weary of her

" kind friends on earth, from whom ſhe " had experienced ſo much *kindneſs* and " *affection*; — yet, ſhe would not deſire to " chooſe — *life* or *death*; but, to *ſubmit to* " *the* LORD — One thing that reconciles " me to the *grave* is," ſaid ſhe, " That our *Dear* SAVIOUR *lay there!*" — The Phyſician obſerving that " he expected to have found her weaker;" ſhe ſaid — My *ſpirits* are good, Doctor — I am not *afraid* to *die!*"

The morning before ſhe died, ſhe exerted herſelf with an holy intrepidity. Being aſked, " If ſhe wanted any thing?" ſhe anſwered, " Having HIM, I poſſeſs all things — I am claſped in His embrace!" By an anſwer ſo remote from the queſtion deſigned, the frame of ſoul ſhe was in, may be conceived of; ſhe added — They might give her what they pleaſed."

To a certain friend, ſhe ſaid; " O, cleave to the dear SAVIOUR, and let the world be under your feet!" When aſked to take nouriſhment, ſhe ſaid, " I have bread to eat, that the *world* knows nothing of!" After a long ſilence, in which they thought ſhe had been aſleep, ſhe claſped her hands together, ſaying, in an extacy, " O! the MAJESTY; — the BEAUTY; — the EXCELLENCE; — the GLORY — the MAGNIFICENCE! — ſhall I *face* to *face* — ſee my *dear crucified* Saviour!"

At

At another time, ſhe ſaid; "I have had a longing deſire for HOLINESS — to be *like* my dear SAVIOUR; — but have nothing to *truſt* to, but what HE hath *done* and *ſuffered* for me!" — To another chriſtian friend, ſhe ſaid, "The *precept* is ſweet, and the *promiſe* is ſweet; but above all, the PROMISER: — *I have the* PROMISER!"

ONE of her female friends, by deſire, was permitted to have an interview of a few minutes with her — but for no longer time, on account of her extreme weakneſs. On aſking how ſhe did, ſhe ſaid, "It is *well* with me: — I have *peace*: — And the LORD bleſs you! — He *hath* bleſſed you — He *doth* bleſs you — He *will* bleſs you! — But give up yourſelf *entirely* to the LORD JESUS! — He will do *every thing* for you! — Let not *fid-fads* keep you back! — As the fowls came down upon ABRAHAM'S ſacrifices, he drove them away: — ſo do YOU — *drive them away!*"

A little before ſhe died, two of the ſhop-ſervants came to the bedſide, to take leave of the beſt of miſtreſſes — to whom ſhe ſaid, "GOD bleſs you! — open your mouths wide, and He will fill them!" — ſhe was too weak to ſay more! — She deſired to be lifted up in the bed: — then kiſſed her ſervants and friends who were about her, and thanked them for all their kind ſervices!

She

She then ſaid, " By the Grace of GOD — I am what I am — Glory be to GOD!"

Her moſt dearly *beloved* female friend was moved to *pray* with her; at the cloſe of which ſhe ſaid, AMEN — *let me kiſs you!* — which having done ſhe went into a doſe; in which ſhe lay a few hours, and expired without a groan or ſigh — on Chriſtmas eve, one thouſand, ſeven-hundred, and eighty-four; aged FIFTY-TWO.

The ſame beloved female friend, who was with her at the time of her deceaſe, ſpeaks thus of it in a Letter to the *Compiler* of theſe MEMOIRS: —

Briſtol, Jan. 28, 1785.

" I doubt not but this labour of *love* will be greatly bleſſed to my dear ſiſter's ſoul; as the reviewing my dear ſiſter TURNER's Letters has been to me; which I could not collect to ſend by my couſin. — Our correſpondence has been of ſuch a ſtanding, that *my* Letters alone will make a volume: — however, *ſome* of them — hope ſoon to ſend by way of TROWBRIDGE to you.

All I read, hear, or think of her, greatly endears her to me; and makes me humbly pray for " like precious faith" with her's. The *ſpirit* ſhe was in through her whole illneſs, ſpake more than all or any *words* could do. — All I can ſay of it is — " It was *perfect* PEACE, *perfect* PATIENCE, *perfect* LOVE: — there never appeared a moment's

ment's intermiſſion, nor one inſtance of defect!"

ANOTHER ſpiritual friend, of the eſtabliſhed Church, teſtified — "He received ſuch a divine anointing from the LORD in company with her, a few days before ſhe died, that he felt the bleſſing on his ſoul, for a whole fortnight: — ſuch a ſweet union and communion between their Spirits, as he had not words to expreſs! — And ſomething of this kind, every ſpiritual perſon could ſay, who had been bleſt with her truly *divine* converſation!

Her Characteriſtic, according to the teſtimony of a very ſpiritual Clergyman, was — "She was clad with the garment of praiſe, and was of a quick underſtanding in the fear of the LORD."

All truly *ſpiritual* people, of every name or perſuaſion, rank or degree among men, felt, generally, that *unction* of the HOLY ONE in her company and converſation, that was ſeldom to be met with in Chriſtians of — narrow views and party-ſpirits — *bigotted* to their own particular opinions in *non-eſſential* points. For ſhe uſed to ſay, "There was an excellence *peculiar* to every denomination of *ſpiritual* people, worth imitating: — and thus ſucking HONEY from *every flower*, ſhe became herſelf ſuch a ſtorehouſe of *ſpiritual ſweets*, from whence all, that would hearken to her wiſdom, might receive

ceive plentifully the precious ſoul-nouriſhing food of goſpel milk and honey: — inſomuch that many came miles to hear her wiſdom, and could ſay, with the Queen of SHEBA concerning SOLOMON, that "the Half had not been told them."

She was highly eſteemed and honored by Miniſters of every perſuaſion: — ſome of whom are not backward to acknowledge, that by *her* they learned the way of GOD more *perfectly*. — And ſhe highly eſteemed them in love for their works ſake, honoring them as the Embaſſadors of CHRIST; and her houſe and purſe were ever open to ſupply their wants. If they were in ſtraitened circumſtances, whether ſpiritual or temporal, and ſhe knew it, ſhe eſteemed it her privilege to do all in her power to relieve them; by wreſtling with the LORD in prayer for their *ſpiritual* relief, and opening her hand for the ſupply of their *temporal* neceſſities. And it is remarkable, that ſhe has been more than ordinarily impreſſed with a deſire to impart, unſolicited — when the caſe of ſome good man has been more than ordinarily *diſtreſſing!*

She ſeldom ſuffered a CHRISTIAN, whether in a public or private capacity to leave her company without *prayer;* for which her ſpiritual and edifying converſation was a ſuitable preparative. If they appeared backward to the exerciſe, ſhe would preſs it

it upon them by every weighty conſidera-tion — would ſo enforce the word of GOD concerning acknowledging Him in all their ways, and being willing to be accounted vile in the ſight of the world, and the MI-CHALS of ISRAEL, for GOD's ſake, that they have been conſtrained to try their Gift; — and while in the act, they have been ſo helped and ſtrengthened by her ſecret aſpi-rations, that they have often roſe from their knees — ſurprized at the liberty given them from the LORD!

The young, the old, the careleſs and the formal, have been led to diſcover the beauty and excellence of true *vital* religion, by her converſation and deportment. Se-veral *gay* young perſons, have been melted down into tears of repentance before her, and received the moſt teachable diſpoſition of ſoul: — which ſhe has cheriſhed and nurſed up, till they have been brought into the *liberty* of the GOSPEL, and proved va-luable members of ſociety.

She uſed to teach her pupils to ſerve GOD, not only on Lord's Days, by hearing the word, and prayer, and reſting from bodily labour — but to ſerve Him likewiſe *all the week*: — in their FAMILIES, by *ſocial;* and in the TRADE and CALLING by *mental* prayer. And ſoon as they had learned their duty to GOD and MAN, ſhe exhorted them to put in practice what they knew. For

" thoſe

" thoſe that were faithful to the little light and grace given," ſhe ſaid " ſhould yet have more light and grace, and be made rulers over many things, as the ſcriptures teſtify: — but thoſe who had itching ears, and were more fond of *hearing* than *doing*," ſhe compared to thoſe the Apoſtle ſpeaks of — " who are ever learning — and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

She did not, like the phariſees, lay heavy burthens on the ſhoulders of others, which ſhe did not touch with one of her fingers: — for ſhe was a remarkable pattern of honeſt induſtry in the duties of her calling; as is obſervable from the preceding pages.

She was one of the moſt affectionate, faithful, obliging and induſtrious of wives: and not only ſo, but ſhe was a ſpiritual friend and comforter to Mr. TURNER, — as may be ſeen by many of her papers and journals, in one of which ſhe writes thus:

— " But above all things, my dear Huſband, may you be enabled to be continually looking unto JESUS — the AUTHOR, the FINISHER of our *faith*; — to adore him for mercies numerous received — and to truſt him for what is to come!

O! my dear Thomas, are all the great things GOD hath done for our ſouls — little, mean, or nothing in our eſteem — and not deſerving of *praiſe*? Shall we not ſay,

" JESUS,

" JESUS, thou Son of David, have mercy on us" — ſmite upon our breaſts, and ſay, " LORD be merciful to me a ſinner" — becauſe we cannot ſay, " My REDEEMER *is mine* — I know that he liveth ?" — " Shall we not venture at his feet, and lie as *poor ſinners* ſtill ? Yes ; bleſſed be his name — we will ! and he has promiſed — " HE WILL IN NO WISE CAST OUT !"

" O ye of little faith, wherefore did ye doubt ?" My deareſt fellow-traveller — " Let not thy heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid ! Ye believe in GOD, believe alſo in JESUS !" — that " He ſuffered — the JUST for the UNJUST :" — for whoſoever *will*, — for all that *come* unto him — to " ſeek and to ſave them that are *loſt*," — for the *vileſt* of the *vile* — the very *Chief* of SINNERS ! Why not then — for THOMAS and JOANNA TURNER ? — There are none more *undeſerving !* — but GRACE — how *free !* MERCY — how *ſovereign !*

GOD is LOVE, my dear Huſband — and He is FAITHFULNESS *itſelf !* Think you, He bids us ſeek his face in *vain ?* — If it were not ſo, he would have told us ! — Will He ſpurn us to Hell, for lying at his dear feet the remainder of our days — which, Glory be to his grace, is the deſire of our ſouls ? It can never be — whatever SATAN ſuggeſts — He is our enemy and will LIE to diſtreſs you ! He lies in wait to deceive

poor ſinners, who are convinced of ſin, and deſire to ſee JESUS—not out of *curioſity*, but to venture their ſouls upon him *alone* for ſalvation! But ſuch ſouls as theſe — are *ſafe* — are *bleſſed!* ſuch ſhall be with CHRIST — where He is, to behold his Glory! There, my fellow-Heir — ſhall WE be! — WE, that are *owned*, *called*, and to whom the *promiſes* are made: There, we ſhall poſſeſs — *boundleſs* BLISS, and *everlaſting* HALLELUJAHS!"

In another Letter, dated Dec. 13, 1773, ſhe exerciſes her *poetical* talents, in the ſame ſpirit! — to remove doubts and fears from his anxious mind.

" Why, my dear Huſband, why theſe doubts
and fears;
Theſe great complainings, all this load of cares?
Leave, leave it all, to thy dear loving LORD!
See, what is written in his *Holy Word*,
ONE THING is *needful*: — chuſe that better part;
Take Him for thine, and give Him thy whole heart!
Then, all things ſhall be added which are good;
Health, wiſdom, raiment, and thy daily food:
Light, life, and ſtrength, from him thou ſhalt receive!
'Tis truth my dear: — O that thou didſt *believe!*
Look not to *ſelf:* no ſtrength from *thence* can flow;
JESUS alone, all bleſſings can beſtow.
O love Him! love Him with thy nobleſt pow'rs!
Would he thus bleſs us, if he were not ours?
Bow, bow before him, in the loweſt Duſt!
ALMIGHTY JESUS! holy, good, and juſt!
Thee we adore, for helping hitherto;
And have thy promiſe that thou'lt bring us thro'
This howling wilderneſs; this place of tears!
O SAVIOUR! pardon all our guilty fears!

Waſh

Waſh the miſgivings of our hearts away,
And let thy LOVE appear, as bright as day!
I ſee thy Heart, my bleſſed deareſt LORD,
LOVE to poor ſinners! Oh! the cheering word!
Can LOVE with-hold what is for *real* good?
Dear Thomas, what a TRUTH! How underſtood!
Thou know'ſt it well; art taught it from above
To bear *my faults*; yet conſtantly to *love!*
O! that my heart a grateful ſong could raiſe,
Taſte the *ſtream* ſweet; but give the FOUNTAIN (praiſe!
But to my duty, in that ſtate of life
In which I'm plac'd: — Farewell!
Thy loving wife
JOANNA TURNER."

In a Letter to the ſame from BRISTOL ſhe writes thus:

" Thank you, my dear Huſband, for your two ſweet Letters! My ſpirit, my heart is with thee: and ſoon I ſhall return, by the permiſſion of our heavenly father, to ſhare thy labours, to ſooth thy cares. Thurſday, by the morning-coach, I intend going to BATH. I have been wonderfully bleſt here, and ſhall return to you in the fulneſs of the goſpel: and great grace ſhall reſt upon us according to the promiſe!

Our kind, dear friends, are very importunate with me to ſtay longer, and prevailed ſo far that I wrote to you to permit me; but I forgot to put the Letter into the poſt-office. In the mean time came your ſweet *plaintive* letter, which I thought ſo like a widowed Dove's — that I come, my dear

 Huſband! —

Huſband! — I come, in the ſtrength of my JESUS, ſetting out afreſh for heaven — determined to be more *his* — and that will make me more

Your dutiful, loving
and obedient wife
JOANNA TURNER."

One of her Letters ſhe begins thus:

" Thou *beſt* of Huſbands, moſt *beloved* of mortals! — Grace, mercy, and peace be with thee from GOD the FATHER, through our LORD JESUS CHRIST! My Soul was pained at parting; but, that it was the will of GOD — ſweetly reconciles me. We have had ſuch a ſacramental ſeaſon! — O the dear BROTHERHOOD — how I *love* them! JESUS taught us to pray — "*Our Father!*" — and ſhall we not ſay to *all* that *know* and *love* HIM — of every name — they are *ours* indeed?"

I felt it *divinely* this day; and you, and my dear PASTOR, and people at TROWBRIDGE, were all near me; for my JESUS was near, and taught me ſweetly! O, that I may *practiſe* what I know! O that the ſame mind were in me as in HIM!

The LORD is my Sun and Shield! He keeps and upholds me from moment to moment: and has bleſſed me, ſince I have been here, with much of his LOVE ſhed abroad in my heart by the power of the HOLY GHOST! He ſweetly permits me to ſhout

ſhout his praiſe, with my dear brethren of all denominations — bleſſed be his name! I think, this is the ſweeteſt viſit I ever paid at BRISTOL."

In another Letter from BRISTOL ſhe writes thus: —

— " I thank you, my beloved Huſband, for your kind Letters. Glory be to GOD, that you are well, and all the dear family! I cannot give you ſo good an account of my diſpatching buſineſs, as in my laſt: but I feel the ſweeteſt union with you, my beloved, and with the reſt of my dear friends at TROWBRIDGE — *ſeparation* makes not the leaſt alteration! And, glory be to GOD, I am ſo united to the dear people here, without ſtraitneſs or diſtinction, that I am, I think, as happy a mortal — as inhabits this City — all friends are ſo kind and affectionate! —Who am I to be ſo highly favored: ſurely, the LORD doth bleſs my going out and coming in!

Oh! what a GOD of *love* — is ours, who is conſtantly beſtowing freſh bleſſings! I never before experienced ſuch oneneſs with Mr. WESLEY'S people; nor could ever before hear their PREACHERS with ſuch profit. It is agreed amongſt us, on both ſides, that " good *Calviniſts*, are ARMINIANS in their *practice*; and good *Arminians*, are CALVINISTS in their *principles*." — I learnt this obſervation from Mr. Baddily,

and frequently quote it — aſk my honored PASTOR if it is not found!"

AND in another Letter, ſhe expreſſes her love and tenderneſs to her dear Huſband, and enlargedneſs of heart towards *all* chriſtians — thus : —

— " Glory be to GOD, that my dear Huſband is well! Your Letter was welcome to me — as water to the thirſty Hart. I hope you were not much grieved at not hearing from me on Friday : I know you were diſappointed. The reaſon was, I was too late for the poſt. Bleſſed be the LORD, *all is well* — and I am well, and would " praiſe him from the riſing of the Sun to the going down of the ſame!" It is a BLESSING that you ſpeak ſo kindly to me, that you miſs me; and ſo much love to have me by your ſide. Glory be to GOD, that I am ſo bleſt with *you*, that I never wiſh to leave you — but to go to my deareſt LORD; or at his bidding — where it is his pleaſure and for his glory! This epiſtle is ſhort — I hope the dear LORD will make it ſweet. Lord's day, one o'clock; — Have received your Letter. Glory be to GOD, it is well with you: and bleſſed be his name, it will be well for ever! I think I never had a more refreſhing ſeaſon at BRISTOL. The GOD of *love* is with us — of all parties, perſuaſions, and denominations of ſpiritual people : — the

the mountains of ſeparation fall before our ZERUBBABEL!

I am exceedingly ſtrengthened and refreſhed in my ſoul; and do beg my deareſt LORD, to give our dear PASTOR, and all the brethren, large draughts of *love* — the *loving ſpirit*; and then, how ſweetly will it flow in all meekneſs, patience and long ſuffering! I am juſt come from the ROOM — have had a very bleſſed ſeaſon! My brother C —— W ——y preached; the text, "*Lord ſave, we periſh!*" — "This, was the ſinner's *firſt* prayer," he ſaid, "and would be, his *laſt.*" Adieu; and believe me, your ever *loving*, though not ever

Obedient wife

JOANNA TURNER."

BUT notwithſtanding ſhe was ſo truly affectionate, tender, and obedient in her place, as a wife; yet when any miſtake, or miſapprehenſion of her Huſband's, was like to prevent her uſefulneſs in the cauſe of GOD, ſhe would exert her bleſſed privilege of a *Mother* in ISRAEL, and ſay, "Hath not the LORD GOD commanded?" Judges 4th 6th — as will be ſeen by the following Letter, concerning talking to a gentlewoman, in a ſoft perſuaſive way, to allure her to CHRIST: — when, Mr. TURNER thought, ſhe was flattering the *great*; and ſhould rather have been ſeverely reproving

proving her for living ſo contrary to the Goſpel.

" My dear Huſband,

If you could underſtand me, you would not think I flattered ſouls — in *ſins*, of any kind. But I know, — from the word of GOD; from the light of the SPIRIT; — from my own *experience*; — that CHRIST is our SANCTIFICATION as well as JUSTIFICATION: and it is only by believing ourſelves intereſted in him — by being *really united to* HIM *by* FAITH, that we riſe ſuperior to *ſin* — of any kind! — " Without HIM, we can do nothing!" HE is " the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE;" — the alone *ſacrifice for* SIN; — the bleſſed *Atonement* conſtantly to be believed in! Of HIM, all the PROPHETS ſpake, the APOSTLES preached, the *living* WITNESSES teſtify! Nothing but the *ſprinkling of* HIS BLOOD, will deliver from an *evil conſcience*, and free us from the uneaſineſs that ariſeth from a ſenſe of GUILT!

Nothing but *Faith in* CHRIST will OVERCOME the *world*, the *fleſh*, and the *devil!* — Why ſhould you then, my dear Huſband, object, when I point to HIM *alone* and exhort all I ſpeak to, that *feel* they are *ſinners* — to look to CHRIST to be *ſaved* — to look to HIM and be *ſtrengthened?* — If hereupon, FAITH ſpring up and grow — OBEDIENCE

OBEDIENCE likewiſe will *proportionally* grow and increaſe!

NO WONDERS can ever be wrought, of a *Holy* kind — but in the NAME of the *Holy Child* JESUS! As ſoon may one of thoſe green ſprigs brought you from Hall's this day, grow without a *root* — as a *ſoul* flouriſh and advance in HOLINESS, without being *grafted into* CHRIST — *united* to HIM by a *lively* FAITH!

And muſt not the faithful *witneſs ſpeak* of his WILLINGNESS to *ſave* — *ſpeak* of his POWER? Muſt He not conſtantly be *deſcribed* and *recommended?* Surely, my dear Huſband, I *muſt* do it — though even THOU art offended, for want of *underſtanding* thy

poor wife

JOANNA TURNER!"

SHE was, after her converſion, one of the moſt amiable, uſeful and affectionate of friends, and relatives: as may be ſeen from the preceding pages, and gathered from many of her letters; — EXTRACTS from which I here ſubjoin:

"GOD is LOVE, my dear ſiſter — I experience him ſo in all his diſpenſations! It was his LOVE induced you to write ſo ſweetly, ſo ſeaſonably to me. My bleſſed heavenly Father is chaſtening and correcting me, in thoſe that are near to me as my own ſoul. I cannot help feeling all

their

their concerns, their ſituations. Every thing that belongs, that relates to *them* — belongs, relates to *me*. My ſoul is filled with parental affection to all the dear children, and to my newly — widowed brother, and ſiſter! Greatly as I have loved them, I never felt affection equal to this before — it is the operation of the *Spirit of* GOD!

We are continually talking together, till our hearts burn within us! O my dear, where ſhall I ſink at the goodneſs of my GOD! They take my advice in every thing that I can adviſe them in: — their ſweet conduct almoſt diſſolves me, at times!

My dear Siſter, does not my heavenly Father hold me up with one hand, whilſt he corrects me with the other? I "kiſs the rod, and Him that appoints it." But Oh! my Siſter, my Siſter, — the anguiſh I have felt for thoſe that are dead — I cannot expreſs to you; — no more than I can my affection to, and the comfort I have in the living! Added to this anguiſh for the death of thoſe I loved as my own Soul, I have had the pain of not being underſtood by my dear C—n — either in my *ſervices*, or *ſufferings!*

My ſoul is truly happy *then*, and only *then*, when it is content to be accounted as a Malefactor, though for *well-doing!* — To be dumb, like my deareſt LORD — to reſemble

ſemble HIM : — my ſoul hungers and thirſts for nothing elſe — nothing elſe can ſatisfy me! — I can love nothing contrary to Him — in myſelf or others!"

SHE was a moſt loving, inſtructive, and tender miſtreſs to her ſervants, having a reſolution that ſurmounted the greateſt difficulties. And being indefatigable in purſuing whatſoever ſhe took in hand — if convinced ſhe was in the path of duty, ſhe equally ſurmounted the reproaches of enemies, and the ſolicitations of friends.

A maid-ſervant falling under great diſtreſs of mind, and, for a time, becoming quite inſane; She did not put her away, or ſend her to a place of confinement, as many of her friends adviſed; but kept her in her own houſe, and watched over her herſelf; uſing every lenient endeavour to relieve and bring her to reaſon again — till her Huſband, and faithful friend Miſs J——n, fearing the poor lunatic might be permitted to do miſchief, took her without Mrs. TURNER's approbation, and conveyed her to a houſe of confinement. But ſhe ſoon made her eſcape to her kind miſtreſs, and recovering from her inſanity, loved and ſerved her faithfully many years afterwards, and at laſt died happy in her arms; as the following Letter to Miſs J——n teſtifies:

" My

" My beloved ſiſter,

Our dear Molly's conflict is over, her warfare is ended: and I have not the leaſt doubt of her being with her dear SAVIOUR, whom ſhe longed to behold without a vail! So far as I can judge, this was her *conſtant* frame. But her ſenſes have been greatly impaired this week paſt. She ſpoke very little; only anſwered queſtions; but greatly to my ſatisfaction, and to the glory of GOD — expreſſive of conſtant faith in JESUS, the moſt humbling views of — *herſelf*, and univerſal love to *all*.

I have been almoſt conſtantly with her, by day; with Molly Hill, and another kind ſiſter: and ſuch plenty of watchers from our ſociety — freſh ones every night! — and if ſhe had lived, I know not the length of the liſt: — I watched her laſt breath!

The LORD is very near me; ſweetly ſpeaks, and explains his providential dealings, to my underſtanding.

We ſhall keep the dear corpſe as long as poſſible, and then bury her in a chriſtian manner. Her funeral text is — Iſaiah 12th 1, 2, verſes. Farewell, my beloved ſiſters, Believe me

ever your's

JOANNA TURNER."

SHE was not leſs indefatigable in the church and ſociety with which ſhe was connected; but proved a wiſe, prudent, and

and tender nurſing-mother to GOD's children.

She conſtantly exhorted them to ſupport union of ſpirit, and to guard againſt falling-out by the way; — and was a bright example of love and affection, in her own deportment.

SHE was very conſiderate, and indulgent to thoſe who erred merely through human infirmity; but diſcovered the utmoſt deteſtation — of *ſin*. She could not bear to ſee the glory of GOD ſullied, or religion injured, by any unworthy conduct in its profeſſors. She hardened her brow as braſs, and ſet her face as a flint, againſt ſelf-indulgence, conformity to the world, looſe walk or converſation, in what ever inſtance it appeared.

AND ſhe was not only as a DEBORAH, the propheteſs, among them, to lead them forth to the battles of the LORD, or as a MIRIAM, to go before them in the worſhip of the LORD; but ſhe was likewiſe as an ABIGAIL — careful to give them good counſel, and to provide for their bodily neceſſities, as well as for the peace of their minds; never ſuffering any of her poor brethren to want the neceſſaries of life, if ſhe knew it. And over and above attending to their extreme neceſſities, ſhe generally gave the poor of their SOCIETY an entertainment, at Chriſtmas, of a plain but

plentiful table; — and on one of theſe occaſions ſhe wrote the following poem:

I.

" Oh! for a tune of loftieſt praiſe,
To ſing the goodneſs of the Lord!
Dear brethren, ſtrive, your voices raiſe;
His love and power proclaim abroad!

II.

Look to the ROCK from whence he hew'd
Our guilty ſouls, and made us his:
The manna round our tents he ſtrew'd,
O! how we taſte the heavenly bliſs!

III.

What hath GOD wrought, our ſouls may ſay,
Since to himſelf he made us cleave!
JESUS, our *Light*, our *Life*, our *Way*,
In thee alone we would believe!

IV.

What haſt thou done, Oh SAVIOUR dear,
For us here waiting at thy feet,
My dear companions preſent here!
O, may we in one ſpirit meet!

V.

Late not BELOVED — *now* HIGHLY PRIZ'D;
What people are more own'd and bleſt!
The day of ſmall things not deſpiſed;
Now drawn to lean on JESU's breaſt!

VI.

Lately, like ſheep we* wandered wide,
Or lonely, like the ſparrow mop'd,
No paſtor, teacher, heavenly guide,
No houſe, or friend to ſooth our hope.

What

* A ſtriking deſcription of the infant ſtate of the Society.

VII.

What a dear PASTOR has he giv'n;
Among ourſelves him deign'd to raiſe:
To lead us on from earth to heaven;
O may we our dear SAVIOUR praiſe!

VIII.

We favour'd, *we* kept by his grace,
Low at his feet would humbly fall;
That in his houſe we've ſtill a place,
Dear brethren, 'tis HIS goodneſs all!

IX.

O! may we now with heart and voice,
Devote and give ourſelves to Thee!
Dear SAVIOUR, take us as we are,
And make us what thou'dſt have us be!

X.

Let us not grovel here below,
Nor tempt thy SPIRIT to depart;
From *children*, let us ELDERS grow,
O JESUS, take our every heart!"

SHE was not only free to do *laudable* actions in the ſight of the *world*, for GOD's ſake, but was as ready to expreſs her fidelity even on occaſions that were likely to be prejudicial to her reputation, to her temporal intereſt, and to endanger the eſteem of her deareſt friends: — not daring to ſlight the pooreſt of CHRIST's flock, or to be aſhamed to be ſeen converſing with thoſe that had been the moſt infamous and abandoned characters — before converſion; —

having that ſcripture on her mind — "Whoſoever is aſhamed of me or my cauſe" — my Goſpel or my people, — "of him will I be aſhamed, before my father and his holy angels!"

MANY remarkable inſtances of denying her proud nature, and taking up the croſs and ſhame, and treading in the ſteps of the friend of publicans and ſinners, might be recounted, to the glory of that *grace* by which ſhe was actuated. But as there are but few of my readers that can enter into the purity of her motives, and thoſe that cannot, may be ſtumbled at it, I forbear to mention them here.

To a perſon filled with the *love* of GOD, and ſenſible of their own demerit by nature, it is eaſy — nay it is pleaſant — to ſtoop to, and treat as a brother, the meaneſt, the chiefeſt of ſinners — who are brought into the fold of CHRIST: — but it is a taſk much more difficult and irkſome, to run the riſk of offending the rich, the great, the wiſe, the amiable, and thoſe you tenderly love, by faithfully warning and reproving for ſin: yet did ſhe take up *that* painful croſs, likewiſe, whenever called to it; and, like PAUL, withſtand even a PETER to his face, if ſhe ſaw he was to be blamed.

IT was her conſtant cuſtom to rebuke profane ſwearers or curſers, and thoſe who took the name of her GOD in vain, though ever

ever ſo reſpectable characters in the world; and thoſe ſhe caught at play, or doing unneceſſary buſineſs on the LORD'S DAY. And notwithſtanding her faithfully and lovingly warning them to flee from the wrath to come, has ſtirred up the old nature in their wicked hearts, and her kindneſs has been returned with contempt, curſing, and mockery; yet many have remembered her admonitions afterwards, with gratitude and profit to their ſouls. And one, in particular, who departed this life in the full *aſſurance* of FAITH, acknowledged on his death bed, that his firſt impreſſions originated from her *reproof* for *breaking* the SABBATH. — Reſpecting this youth, ſhe writes thus to Miſs J——n of Briſtol: —

"My dear friend,

THE LORD hath vouchſafed an aſtoniſhing bleſſing to dear M— H——, in the death of her grandſon, a moſt notoriouſly — wicked boy; who, a few months ago, withſtood and dared me in ſuch a manner, as you would not think one of twelve years old capable of — becauſe I would hinder him from playing on the LORD'S *Day*.

Laſt Wedneſday his grandmother deſired me, at his requeſt — *earneſt*, *voluntary* requeſt, — to come to him. I aſked him, how he did? with great ſweetneſs of voice, he anſwered, "Very bad!" But how is it with your *Soul?* "I am *doubting!*" What

do you *doubt* about? "I am *ſuch* a *ſinner* — I fear I cannot be *pardoned!*" What have you ſinned ſo much in? "In every thing!" — This anſwer he made with great eagerneſs. — Doth any one ſin, more than another, lie with weight on your conſcience? "No: — I have done every thing that is bad!" I know you have, my dear, ſaid I: — You have been a remarkable ſabbath-breaker, diſobedient to your mother, and a good grandmother, a liar, and a thief. I then repeated ſeveral of the commandments, and ſaid, "GOD is of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and if you had *obſerved* them inſtead of *breaking* them, and at laſt had offended but in *one point*, you could not be ſaved by the LAW. But would you break them *again* if you were *well?*" "No:" ſaid he, "I would hear preaching!" If GOD were to deal juſtly with you, muſt he not ſend you to hell? "He muſt, for I deſerve *worſe* than hell!" Do you know of any way, in which ſuch a ſinner as you may go to heaven? "Yes; JESUS CHRIST hath *died upon the* CROSS to *ſave ſinners!*" I aſked him many queſtions — as, whether he believed in CHRIST as GOD? &c. — to all which he anſwered marvellouſly! I aſked him, What we ſhould deſire of GOD for him? He ſaid, "That He would take me to heaven;" — and, after a pauſe, ſaid, — "and pardon my ſins!" He deſired

deſired Mr. CLARK would preach a ſermon on theſe words — "*It is finiſhed.*"

He expreſſed the conſolation he derived from thoſe words, ſo often repeated in the Pſalms, "*His mercy endureth for ever.*" He ſaid, "He was a murderer all the day long." His friends aſked him, What he meant? He ſaid, "His *ſins* murdered CHRIST."

The evening before he died, he ſaid, "The Devil told him, if he lived he ſhould be as bad as ever." In the night he was heard to ſay, O *precious, precious, precious* JESUS! LORD, thy will be done!" — notwithſtanding he was in the moſt excruciating pain. The Doctor told him, he would give him ſome palatable medicines, and perhaps he might yet live. He ſaid, "He did not *wiſh* to live." His grandmother, giving him ſome cold water to drink in the night, ſaid to him, "You will ſoon drink draughts of *Salvation!*" "Yes;" ſaid he, "from the *Rock* — CHRIST!"

About an hour before he died, he lamented his *impatience;* and ſaid, If it were not pardoned, it was enough to damn his ſoul to hell!" Mrs. TURNER took great pleaſure in reflecting upon the circumſtances attending this youth's converſion — particularly, that it did not diſcover itſelf more in his *affections*, than his *judgment*, and that he was ſo *diffident* of *himſelf*.

As

As ſhe watched every opportunity, and took every occaſion to win ſouls to CHRIST; if, when going to the Houſe of GOD, ſhe ſaw any loitering away their time whom ſhe could take the liberty with, ſhe would invite them to go with her — and has frequently ſucceeded.

Her invitations, were always attended with the higheſt expreſſions of the value ſhe had for the *ſalvation* of *ſouls*, and the importance of the GOSPEL-*meſſage*.

It cannot be ſuppoſed that ſhe was leſs concerned for the ſalvation of near and dear *relations*, than for *ſtrangers*. Prayers, offered to GOD on their behalf, were heard; and her endeavours, in conjunction with her prayers, proved ſucceſsful. Mr. TURNER's Mother, two brothers and a nephew, with others, were made willing to take up the croſs and follow a *crucified* SAVIOUR.

OLD Mrs. TURNER, had been exceedingly prejudiced againſt the *methodiſts*: but, by coming to live in her ſon's houſe, they were removed. She ſaw her daughter-in-law was a pattern of piety! — her conduct won upon her exceedingly. She gradually received light in her underſtanding, became an honorable member of the church; — and after a life full of days, died in the full *aſſurance* of FAITH, leaving behind her a correſpondent teſtimony. Mrs. TURNER,

NER, in a Letter to me, dated August the 12th, 1784, writes thus concerning her:

"Our dear MOTHER was buried on the evening of the day that I received your Letter. She was violently seized with the small-pox, lived a fortnight and two days, and had the disorder very heavy. At times, we had hopes of her recovery, till the last two days; but she herself had neither hope nor wish for it. Her Apothecary says, he never saw one so *patient* in such a disorder. Indeed, her meekness, gentleness, humility and spirituality, as well as her submission to the will of GOD, were beyond description!

While she was able to speak plain, she spoke much of the LORD's gracious dealings with her soul; and exhorted, with great wisdom and power, those she conversed with, to cleave close to the LORD: and said, among other things, that "if she was to *recover*, she did not know how she should bear the *vanity* of many who — *professed* GODLINESS."

Being in a high fever, and very thirsty, she told me one day — "she was grieved that she thirsted for any thing more than for JESUS."

Her desire after him was soon after satisfied: — such a hungering and thirsting was vouchsafed, as she never experienced before; — she did indeed long to be with CHRIST!

CHRIST! At the beginning of her illneſs ſhe once ſaid, but never after — that "of the two ſhe would chooſe to live a little longer, that ſhe might live more to the glory of GOD;" but on a friend's telling her of the FINISHED *ſalvation*, ſhe rejoiced in *that alone*.

As ſhe was *blind*, whenever ſhe wanted to drink, we uſed to put her hand to the cup, and deſire her to guide it to her mouth; on which ſhe once ſaid —

"Guide me, O thou great JEHOVAH!
Pilgrim o'er this barren land:
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Guide me, with thy powerful hand!
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more!"

And ſhe repeated the laſt couplet "*Bread of heaven, Bread of heaven — feed me till I want no more*" — with ſuch an *emphaſis* as was moſt *animating!* Once, ſhe ſpoke of a little conflict with ſatan, and was ſet at liberty by theſe words; "*Rejoice, the* LORD *is* KING" &c. Both theſe Hymns were ſung the night her funeral-ſermon was preached; the text — her own chooſing — Pſalm 94. verſe 19."

It was a moſt agreeable ſight, to behold the mutual tenderneſs and reſpect, Mrs. TURNER and her mother-in-law were ever ſtudious to ſhew to each other. It was impoſſible that they ſhould live upon more fa-

cred

cred and affectionate terms: and indeed, there was such order and decorum preserved in the family by their joint conduct, and such quietude in their most busy hours; as is scarcely to be conceived, and very rarely imitated.

Mr. TURNER's nephew, with a surviving brother, were left in almost destitute circumstances; and coming under the care of Mrs. TURNER afforded opportunity to discover, how wisely she could discharge the duty of a parent. She had them in all subjection; but it was not the subjection of slaves. They reverenced her, because they loved her; and by her excellent and rational discipline were restrained from evil. The *youngest* died of a fever, in the tenth year of his age, at boarding school; where he manifested a love to the scriptures, and endeavoured, by a variety of pretty methods, to excite his school-fellows to love them also.

We have good authority to say, "He had more than *hope* in his death." His AUNT had early taught him to lisp his REDEEMER's praise, and to sing hosanna to the *Son* of DAVID! She taught him to pray extempore; and often heard him, when he knew it not, in retirement, pray very earnestly for the pardon of his sins, and for an interest in the *love of* CHRIST.

One

One of his dying ſentences was, that "He was ſure he *loved* GOD above all things;" — though he had ſeveral times before expreſſed his fears, that if he died he ſhould not go to heaven.

His *brother*, it is to hoped, will follow the inſtructions and example of his valuable Aunt.

IN the inſtruction of children ſhe had a a very happy talent. In order to quell pride, envy, ſelf-applauſe, malice and revenge — which the generality of parents cheriſh in them, by leading their young minds to admire their own wiſdom, beauty, fine cloaths, ſmart ſayings, pert remarks, &c. and thus increaſing their inſufferable pertneſs of behaviour to others — ſhe early taught them what *wicked hearts* they had; — how ignorant, fooliſh, and ſinful by nature; — how ſatan inſtilled into them every evil deſire, every proud, envious and malicious thought — and therefore it was the *wicked ſpirit* that made them proud of fine clothes: — which, ſhe told them, were only made out of the graſs of the field, the bowels of worms, or bits of greaſy wool from the ſkins of beaſts; — that it was HE the FATHER of *lies*, that made them tell lies — be angry with, envious at, or ſteal from one another.

WHENEVER they were guilty of a fault, ſhe would go to the word of GOD, and point

point out from thence the ſin and the puniſhment, if not forgiven; and make them pray to GOD for forgiveneſs, before they expected forgiveneſs from *her*.

THUS they learned to deſpiſe new clothes, inſtead of being proud of them; to be aſhamed of coveting one another's playthings, and of aſſuming all the converſation to themſelves, as the generality of children are now permitted to do: — much leſs were they allowed to be pert and ſaucy to their elders, and ſervants; having the ſtory of the Bears tearing ſo many children to pieces, for unbecoming behavior to GOD's ſervant, ſet before them frequently by way of precaution.

AND, as they were able to bear it, ſhe told them, not only of their fallen ſtate by nature, but alſo their recovery by JESUS CHRIST: — and led them to *love* their SAVIOUR for what he had done and ſuffered for them; and to believe his gracious promiſes of ſaving their ſouls; and to pray for power, to believe, love and obey him: — as is manifeſt by the following Letter to her ſurviving nephew, when at ſchool, dated November the 8th, 1780.

My dear Thomas,

I ſhould write to you oftener, but duties of various kinds employ my time; and I know you have in Mr. and Mrs. W——'s inſtructions, every thing I would wiſh you.

I charge you, my dear, if you wiſh to be happy, that you will attend to the inſtruction, admonition and advice now given you! Indeed, it is a peculiar privilege for you to be where you now are: I am greatly ſenſible of it, and hope you are the ſame; and will improve it to the utmoſt of your capacity: — then, with what pleaſure will dear Mr. W——r ſee you capable of buſineſs, acting properly, and a bleſſing to the whole family!

This greatly depends upon your improvement of your preſent opportunities, which I beg you to attend to: — but above all, pray the LORD to convert you; — if the *tree* is made good, the *fruit* will be good alſo.

We often talk of you. Mrs. C—s frequently enquires after you: you are a great favourite with her, and with Mrs. C——k. Mr. Clark's father was buried laſt Wedneſday.

The late death of your dear brother, and other friends, calls aloud to you to be *ready*. You are not certain of a day, nor an hour; therefore, how dangerous, how fooliſh is it, to defer the preparation for it! — when the remedy is at hand — to delay taking it; the loving Saviour wooing you — and you to neglect the gracious offer! Now is the accepted time! it is not yet too late! if you feel a want or deſire of ſalvation,

tion, you may aſk — you may expect to receive!

You are not too young to *die*; — you are not too young to be *ſaved!* — Your dear grandmother is very anxious about you, longing for your ſalvation: indeed, it is the united prayer of all our hearts; and, I am ſure, it is of the dear friends with whom you are; — and, I hope, my dear, you are not unconcerned about it yourſelf.

Do write the feelings of your heart *honeſtly* — ſpeak the *truth*. For earneſtly as we wiſh you to hear and underſtand God's voice to you in every thing, yet we intreat you, not to *diſſemble*, nor uſe the leaſt HYPOCRISY in ſacred matters! It is the greateſt ſin that can be in GOD's ſight! it is the greateſt abomination to thoſe who are like him — all *ſincere* CHRISTIANS! The *folly* of it, is as great as the *ſin*; for if the real caſe be not known, how can proper advice be given you? Can a Phyſician preſcribe properly for a patient, that concealeth his real diſeaſe?

How happy ſhall I be, my dear Thomas, to be inſtrumental of benefiting your Soul, of promoting your everlaſting welfare! — The moſt agreeable ſituations in life, will have their diſagreeableneſſes likewiſe: and in fourſcore years, or much ſhorter time, there will be an end of all below! EVERLASTING *happineſs*, or *miſery*, will then

begin; and Oh! how long — how inconceivably long their duration! — *for ever* — and *ever!* When millions, and millions of *ages* are paſt — ETERNITY is no nearer ending!

To loſe eternal Happineſs — now ſo freely offered — how ſhocking the reflection! And for the ſake of indulging *any one ſin* — that cannot *now* make *happy*, — the bleſſed bleeding SAVIOUR is ſlighted — the *ſoul loſt!* My dear Thomas, you have had, you now have, theſe important truths ſo faithfully and affectionately preſſed upon you, that you will — indeed you will — be without excuſe, if you neglect ſo great ſalvation! But I hope better things of you — that you will go to GOD; — give yourſelf as you are, as you can, to the dear SAVIOUR; — and He will pardon, bleſs, and make you happy!

HE is this moment very near to you — now invites you! Is there no deſire to be ſaved from ſin here, and from wrath eternal? Does not your conſcience accuſe you of SINS — *many* — *great* — and *aggravated?*

Well: — be *honeſt*; confeſs to the LORD *what* you feel, and *as* you feel! He knows every thing without your ſpeaking: — but if you feel the miſery of your ſtate by nature, you cannot but cry out for mercy; and then, my dear child — how we ſhall encourage you!

All

All miniſters, all chriſtians, the whole word of GOD! are for your encouragement! A cloud of witneſſes will teſtify, that JESUS ſtill *receiveth ſinners*; — that his blood cleanſeth from all ſin; — that the HOLY SPIRIT ſtill convinces and comforts — leads and guides — thoſe whom GOD the FATHER loves! May the bleſſed, adorable, TRIUNE GOD, bleſs this poor Letter to your ſoul!

This is the firſt week we have been without viſiters for a long time; and you may think I love you, by devoting the firſt leiſure moments to you.

The writing is bad; you muſt take ſome little pains to read it. Part of it, was written by candle-light; and my eyes decay exceedingly faſt: but, glory be to that GOD I wiſh to recommend to you — "He increaſes my *ſpiritual* ſight, ſtrength and enjoyments!" I am ſure — I could ſpeak it in the face of a whole aſſembled world, from a confidence of the truth, — that not a mortal living, can taſte ſuch ſweet peace, ſuch real enjoyment, from riches, honors, pleaſures, or all the joys united together, that *earth* can afford — as I taſte, feel, and richly enjoy, in the *favor of my* GOD: — which he makes me as ſenſible of, by his bleſſed SPIRIT, as I am of any thing by natural means!

If you feel ſorrow for ſin, and deſire to be ſaved from it, and all the evil effects and conſequents of it, by JESUS CHRIST the LORD, he will forgive you; and breathe peace, ſweet peace into your ſoul: and then, you cannot but be *happy* — love, ſerve and praiſe GOD! Accept our united love: preſent it to dear Mr. and Mrs. W——r; we ſhall be happy to ſee you all together at TROWBRIDGE, the 23d of November, our ANNIVERSARY. I am

your affectionate Aunt.

J. TURNER."

AT the bottom of a Letter to me ſhe writes thus: — " Our dear nephew Thomas is the bearer of this Letter. PROVIDENCE appeared pointing out to us, and our hearts were inclined, to place him with Mr. W——r for a ſeaſon.

He is a dutiful, humble, loving Child: we could not have ſpared him but for his good. He has a good capacity, but wants culture; like my Myrtle, which I removed yeſterday from a little pan to a large tub, that it might expand its root and ſpread its branches.

When ever you are at MARLBOROUGH, be ſo kind as to take a little notice of him. You know, I would not have him to be ſo particularized — as to be made *vain* or *proud* — may *pride* be ever hid from his eyes!

eyes! — My bowels this moment yearn over him with the ſincereſt deſire for his welfare!"

Mrs. TURNER's Letters, converſation and prayers, were made very uſeful, in early life, to a dearly beloved niece; who departed this life a year and a half before herſelf, truſting in the merits of CHRIST alone for ſalvation; — concerning whom ſhe wrote thus to me in April 22, 1783:

"I was prevented going the journey I intended, by the illneſs and death of my dear niece, J——s, at the Hot-wells. — A moſt calm, eaſy, and delightful exit it was! — I can ſay, with confidence and full aſſurance, that ſhe moſt ſweetly fell aſleep in JESUS!

On the morning before her death, ſhe told me and dear Miſs J——n, that ſhe was happier than ever ſhe was in all her life — quite reſigned and willing to die, if it were the will of GOD. — She could leave her dear little girl, four years old, her moſt amiable huſband, and all ſhe had in the world, and go to JESUS.

You will conceive of my happineſs, to ſee one ſo dearly beloved go out of the world, ſo ſafe and happy! — It was a moſt affecting ſcene — ſo mournfully pleaſing! I ſaw her expire, in the eaſieſt manner, without a pang, ſtruggle or groan, in the thirty-ſeventh year of her age!"

WHILE

WHILE Mrs. TURNER filled up every part of civil, religious, and relative duty, and thus preſerved a conſcience void of offence, towards MAN; ſhe did not forget to preſerve a good conſcience towards GOD.

It was a MAXIM with her, to keep the LORD'S preſence by ſecret PRAYER and the eye of FAITH, while ſhe was buſied in her *ſhop* or *counting-houſe:* ſo that ſhe made every place a houſe of *prayer* — often ſaying, that "Every morning when ſhe left her bed, ſhe prayed to be enabled — "to give her *Heart* to GOD, and her *Hands* to the WORLD." — But ſhe did not give every hour, even of the *week-days*, to the WORLD. She attended public preaching, twice a week, conſtantly; and Society or prayer-meetings, once: — beſide the time alotted for her private devotions, and the opportunities that offered for ſocial prayer with her occaſional viſiters.

The Lord's day, from early in the morning till late in the evening, was almoſt entirely devoted to his ſervice and worſhip, according to Iſaiah 58. 13.

AND what was peculiarly excellent and worthy of imitation in Mrs. TURNER, was; her conſtant obedience to what ſhe thought the will of GOD — however irkſome, and contrary to *fleſh* and *blood* — in *little* things as well as *great*: and often would ſhe ſay, with

with SAMUEL, " Hath the LORD as great " pleaſure, in burnt offerings and ſacrifi- " ces, as when the voice of the LORD is " obeyed? Behold, to obey is better than " ſacrifice; and to hearken, than the fat " of rams: for wilful rebellion is as the " ſin of witchcraft, (which SAUL was no- " ted to puniſh moſt ſeverely,) and ſtub- " bornneſs is as iniquity and idolatry." — To be ſtiff in our own opinions and ſelf-willed, or not to bend our will to the LORD's, is as the greateſt enormities! —

" IT does not ſignify," ſaid ſhe, " to pretend to ſtand up for, and make a great ſhew of ſtrictneſs in obeying the outward ordinances of GOD, and condemning the ſins and departures from the faith of *others* — fighting about non-eſſentials, modes, and opinions, — while we are determined to obey his precepts, and the ſecret voice of his SPIRIT, no farther, than is agreeable to our *own inclinations.*"

BUT ſad experience teaches us, there is a diſinclination in the natural man to go to GOD for council ſecretly in the Soul, where the LORD chooſes to be ſought unto. — When we cannot but here the SPIRIT ſpeak, and are conſcious that he ſpeaks agreeably to the written *word;* how do we ſtifle the ſound! — Shutting our ears againſt it, turning immediately to ſome outward ſacrifice,

ſacrifice, to be ſeen of men, or cuſtomary ordinance, in preference to the preſent ſweet command of GOD; — conſulting the opinions of the people of God, and following their counſel — who are, in part, blind and ſelfiſh, — rather than the poſitive word of the LORD: — like SAUL, willing enough to give up thoſe things that would make us appear vile in the ſight of Men; — but the pride of our good works, our good name; our own wiſdom, will, and way — we chooſe to ſpare; pretending with *thoſe* to ſacrifice to the LORD!

How ſhe was taught to hear, underſtand, and ſubmit to the ſecret commands of GOD, may be learnt from the following extract of a Letter to her Huſband, when ſhe was employed in the LORD's work at TISBURY.

" My dear Huſband,

Glory be to GOD, *all is well!* — no evil occurrence of any kind permitted to befall me! I hope and truſt that it is the ſame with you, and all the dear family, to whom I am not the leſs united, by diſtance: — but here, the good LORD hath ſtationed me, for a ſeaſon; and it is delightfully ſweet to my ſoul to ſubmit to his bleſſed commands!

He makes me underſtand: — He makes me obey, by heavenly gentle force, divinely-pleaſing touches, leadings, drawings of

of the SPIRIT — and there is no reſiſting ſuch charming allurements!

Oh that CHRISTIANS — the men of GOD underſtood this all-attracting way, and practiſed it more! If they did, it is inconceivable how happy I ſhould be, on earth! — But ah! how few — how very few do I meet with, but deal harſhly with, ſpeak roughly to — tell me I ſhould do ſo to others; — and cenſure the overflowings of that LOVE, my GOD is pleaſed to ſhed abroad in my heart!

I am learning leſſons of Grace, from the hewing, ſawing, planing, of the *carpenter*; from the fitting, ſetting, and poliſhing of the ſtones, by the *maſons*. Oh, my dear! every thing is right — all of divine appointment! Who am I, what am I — to be ſo bleſt and favoured by the MAJESTY of Heaven! HE is with me — my *brother, huſband, friend!* I have nothing to do, but to tell of his goodneſs, greatneſs, love and mercy!"

As a powerful incitement to obedience, ſhe was bleſt with an unſhaken confidence in GOD, as a GOD of *love*; in whom was no fury, for a moment, towards his children; who never afflicted *willingly* or grieved the children of men.

In one of the laſt Letters ſhe ever wrote, ſhe ſpeaks thus: —

— "HE is LOVE — moſt loving to me in all his dealings! My ſoul has for theſe twenty

twenty years adored him as a GOD of LOVE — taſted the conſtant ſweetneſs of being *accepted in the* BELOVED!"

INDEED, her *faith* was in the general, ſtrong, active, lively — unſhaken by frames or feelings! It was *that faith*, which is of the operation of GOD's SPIRIT; — *that faith*, which hath the unchangeable love of GOD for its foundation, and is built up with his promiſes; — *that faith*, which getteth the victory over the world, the fleſh, and the devil; and worketh by *love*: — It was *that faith*, which the Apoſtle ſaith "ſubdued Kingdoms, wrought righteouſneſs, obtained promiſes, ſtopped the mouths of Lions, quenched the violence of fire, eſcaped the edge of the ſword, out of weakneſs were made ſtrong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens!"

As was ſaid of a highly favoured ſervant of the LORD — "Not leſs eminent than "her *faith*, was her HUMILITY! Amidſt "all her laying herſelf out for GOD and "the good of ſouls, ſhe ever preſerved "that ſpecial grace, of — *making no account* "*of her labours!*" She held herſelf and her abilities in the moſt deſpicable light: and ſeemed to have *that* word continually before her eyes, and ever on her tongue, which ſhe choſe as a text for her *funeral*-ſermon, many years ago — "*I am nothing!*"

UNDER

UNDER a ſenſe of her unprofitableneſs, ſhe writes thus to me, in the year 1783. — — " Glory be to GOD, " *All is well*" — that his DIVINE MAJESTY appoints or permits! My ſoul aſpires after the moſt perfect ſubmiſſion and obedience to his will! To *will* — this I can ſpeak to the glory of his grace — is continually with me; but my *performances* are very very low, mean, contemptible — droſs — dung — inſignificant and vile beyond deſcription — but not *wickedly deſigned!* With all the poor weak powers of my ſoul, I *would* — I *do* as I can, aſcribe conſtantly all the glory to my GOD and SAVIOUR!

Notwithſtanding it is but *little* that I know, yet I know — " All the good that is done upon the earth, HE doth it himſelf:" — " All power is HIS!"

In *me*, that is, in my fleſh, dwelleth no good thing — at any time: — no, not for a moment! I am the clay and He is the Potter! " The voice, if tuned — HE tunes: the nerve that writes — ſuſtains: HE moulds — HE forms — HE faſhions: In HIM — I live, I move, I have my — NEW CREATED Form! I am ſtupid in learning, ſlow in advancing — can but *creep*; — but I *wiſh* to FLY — in HIS *bleſſed ways*, HIS *delightful commands!* But I can do nothing but commit freſh faults, receive freſh pardons — freſh ſupports and ſupplies

— and "attempt to liſp freſh ſongs of praiſe!"

Places, ſituations, different diſpenſations of Providence, or kinds of employment, are but of little conſequence to me! If my LORD, my LIFE, my LOVE be near, I can do all things — or can bear all ſufferings: — whilſt HE upholds me, I cannot ſink nor be diſmayed!

HE is my *All:* — my whole of religion is — to pleaſe and enjoy Him! He ſweetly moſt condeſcendingly teaches me — by his SPIRIT — WORD — and PROVIDENCE; — and it is a moſt delightful road!

I thirſt, I gaſp, for greater degrees, for larger meaſures! and yet feel the ſweeteſt ſatisfaction of mind — except with *myſelf*.

I can do nothing well! — I am conſtantly overwhelmed with great ſhame and confuſion of face, and breathe, from my inmoſt ſoul — "LORD, thou knoweſt all things, thou knoweſt that I *would love* thee" — notwithſtanding I *do not*, I *cannot* as I *ought*! I want to be all gratitude and love; — I want to be entirely dead to all below — as to inordinacy of affection — as ANGELS, as the bleſſed ſpirits above are; — and to *love* GOOD of *whatever* kind, and *wherever* it is — *love* what my adorable heavenly FATHER *loves*, and *hate* what HE *hates!*

Nothing nothing can ſatisfy my ſoul, till I awake after HIS *likeneſs*. I hate myſelf, and

and my very very amazing, ſhameful, ſcandalouſly ſhameful *unlikeneſs* — conſidering the vaſt helps, the amazing expence beſtowed upon me; — ſo that, I am ſure, I ought to kiſs the lips; yea, the feet, of the faithful friend that reproves and admoniſhes me!

I am heartily convinced, that it is the LORD that *begins, carries on*, and muſt *compleat* the whole of SALVATION!

It is HE *alone* that has worked on the hearts of the poor ſinners at TISBURY, to *will* and to *do*. And Oh! — his DIVINE GOODNESS to *me* — in condeſcending to uſe *me* as an inſtrument! — if he ever has been pleaſed to uſe *me*. Glory be to HIM! the conſtant cry of my ſoul is — "Send, LORD, by whom thou wilt ſend!"

Oh! HUMILITY! — *ſweet* HUMILITY! — I long for it! POVERTY *of ſpirit* — I wiſh for more than *Heaven!* I cannot be ſatisfied without it! Pray for me, my friend, that it may, ſpeedily, and in the largeſt meaſure, be beſtowed upon me!

I do not deſire *great* things! — I want to be *little, unſeen, unknown*; — loving, adoring, and obeying my SAVIOUR — *my* LORD and *my* GOD; and cheriſhing his dear members; — and doing good to a *whole* WORLD, if I could! Farewel, my dear friend; Let me hear from you ſoon, who am,

The pooreſt of creatures

J. TURNER."

From this deep ſelf-abaſement and ſelf-abhorrence, ſprang great pity to, and patience with the weakneſs, ignorance, infirmities and frailties of others. Her patience, forbearance, and continued favors to ſome that repeatedly offended in matters that concerned her worldly intereſt, were uncommon! But ſhe aimed to follow her DIVINE MASTER's precepts and example, as far as lay in her power; particularly, that of forgiving injuries, overcoming evil with good: — and thus heaping coals of fire upon them, to melt, if poſſible; their obdurate hearts and refine their droſſy natures!

It produced in her, likewiſe, a mind ready to every good word and work; every thing that could promote her neigbours real intereſt: — and no croſs ſeemed hard or weariſome to her, that tended to that ſalutary end!

Accordingly, ſhe went about doing good continually: often took long and tireſome walks, and expenſive journies, for the good of individuals, at the requeſt of thoſe ſhe had never ſeen: — beſides the expence of money, health and eaſe, ſhe beſtowed ſo freely, for the proſperity of different churches, and the ſpread of the goſpel in her own neighborhood, and diſtant villages. She often went miles for the good of ſouls, when the ſituation of her health required that

that ſhe ſhould be carefully nurſed at home. And but the week before ſhe took to her bed, — where ſhe died in leſs than a fortnight, — ſhe went to the houſe of GOD, unable as ſhe was to walk, on purpoſe to prevail with a friend diſtreſſed in mind, to go with her there, in hopes of comfort from the word preached: — and ſtanding about on the cold ſtones, importuning her friend, with whom ſhe could not prevail, ſhe caught a violent cold, that ſtruck the *cancer* inwards on her lungs — and, to all human appearance, ſhortened her days.

IN BEARING PAIN ſhe was indeed moſt exemplary, and continued more and more ſo to the laſt! Nothing but the fear of ſpeaking an untruth, would extort from her, at any time, unneceſſary confeſſions of pain or trouble — much leſs complaints or murmurs at the LORD's dealing with her body, or ſoul: Her general anſwer to kind enquirers was — "*All is well!*"

Mrs. TURNER was eminent likewiſe for a great ſhare of divine WISDOM; — which ſhe exerciſed on all occaſions, ſpiritual and temporal, to the advantage, ſatisfaction and admiration of thoſe concerned.

Her *worldly* affairs, were conducted in the ſame ſpirit, as her *heavenly*. She went to the ſame eternal FOUNTAIN for ſupplies of ſkill and power, to perform *little* things as well as *great*; — remembring

that ſcripture, " Not a hair of your head falls to the ground, without your heavenly father's notice;" and — " Doth the LORD take care for Oxen — and Sparrows only — and not for his *children?*"

She felt it her privilege, to expect the LORD's direction in all doubtful and difficult caſes of common life; and even to bleſs and proſper the ſmalleſt work of her hands. She knew, that every thing he called her to in his PROVIDENCE, he would give her wiſdom to perform; and therefore, " whatever her hands found to do, ſhe did it with all her *might*," aſking help of HIM.

Two great advantages reſulted from this ſimplicity of faith: — Firſt, ſhe was encouraged by it to do every thing, that appeared right and proper to be done, *immediately*, as ſoon as it occured; and thus, kept her mind and memory unburthened: — Secondly, ſhe received her light and power, from the FOUNTAIN of wiſdom and might, and therefore did all things *well!*

BUT among all the Graces, that of LOVE ſhone moſt conſpicuous! — LOVE to poor ſinners, enabled her to give up the honors, pleaſures, and profits of the world, to become a ſervant to the CHURCH. At her firſt ſetting out in the cauſe of CHRIST, and after the LORD honoured her with a bleſſed increaſe of this world's goods, ſhe ſtill

ſtill continued to devote — the *much* as well as the *little*, to the ſervice of precious ſouls.

Before ſhe was a houſe-keeper, ſhe laid out all ſhe could ſpare from her own neceſſary ſupplies of apparel, &c. on the poor and needy: — and once, believing herſelf called of the LORD in his Providence to give her laſt Half-guinea, to help a poor ſick man in great diſtreſs, with which ſhe had deſigned to buy SHOES for herſelf, of which ſhe was in great want; — ſhe gave her half-guinea, and condeſcended to *beg* a pair of SHOES of a friend, without acquainting her with the real ſtate of the caſe.

WHEN ſhe became a Houſe-keeper, with the ſmall income of twenty-five pounds per Year, ſhe lived on bread and water much of her time in order to afford a meal of meat, once a week, to ſeveral poor people who could not purchaſe it: — and was once ſo reduced, as to go without bread herſelf for a whole day; and muſt have continued ſo a longer time, had not the LORD appeared for her wonderfully in his PROVIDENCE, juſt in the time of need: — for expecting ſome young friends out of the Country to viſit her, ſhe was looking over ſome Letters to entertain them with — when to her utter aſtoniſhment, gratitude and joy, dropped out from one of them Half-a-guinea and ſome ſilver!

IN

In theſe ſtraitened circumſtances, ſhe often-times labored with her hands on plain-work, for hire, day and night; without refreſhment for her poor body.

And when ſhe had all things and abounded, ſhe did not ceaſe her labors for the poor, but rather increaſed them: — doing herſelf two peoples work in her ſhop, by day, and giving up her neceſſary reſt at night, in order to have wherewith to give to him that needeth; — and to build an Houſe, where they might aſſemble to hear the good news of SALVATION for *loſt ſinners!*

But her LOVE was not confined to her *own* church and people; it was extended towards all mankind — towards chriſtians of every name! To all who *loved* the LORD JESUS CHRIST in *ſincerity*, and bore his image and ſuperſcription, ſhe gave the right hand of fellowſhip, ſaying, "Behold, my mo-"ther and my brethren! whoſoever doeth "the will of my Father which is in heaven, "the ſame is my Brother, and Siſter, and "Mother!" Matt. 12. 49, 50.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER, among many others written to her couſins in Mr. WESLEY'S SOCIETY, will give us a little *ſpecimen* of her CATHOLIC *ſpirit*. —

"Dear ſiſters of my ſoul,

I am aſhamed of all I do, or think, or ſay — it ſeems ſuch a boaſting! — but it is in

in *my* GOD, and I never can ſpeak a thouſandth part of his goodneſs! My ſituation appears to me juſt like the LEPERS, that were in the poſſeſſion of ſuch good things — that they did not well to hold their peace!

I am much ſtrengthened in my ſoul and refreſhed by viſiting you! Glory be to GOD! I can underſtand, and do *love* all his dear precious ones; they are *his* joy and delight, and ſo they are *mine!* He rejoiceth over them as with ſinging; and he gives me — bleſſed be his dear name! — a *meaſure* of that ſame SPIRIT — that was poured out upon HIM, *without meaſure!*

In all *their* afflictions, HE is afflicted: — and in my little, *very little* ſphere, I mourn with them that mourn in ſpirit; and weep with them that weep!

Prejudices, evil-ſurmiſing, pride, bigotry, ſparing themſelves, loving the world, &c. &c. amongſt the dear followers of the LAMB — who ſhould be gentle towards all men, and love their brethren — becauſe the BLESSED LORD takes all as done to himſelf, — give me much pain!

And ſurely, my dear Siſters, it cannot be pleaſing to HIM who is LOVE; to ſlight, lightly-eſteem, or in the leaſt to *withdraw* from a brother, or ſiſter, but for diſorderly walking; — and they are not *brethren*, if they are not *in the faith of* CHRIST!

What

What my bleſſed and adorable GOD will do — with me, by me, or for me, I know not: nor deſire any thing, but that HIS WILL may be done! But it is this moment the determination of my ſoul, to know nothing ſave JESUS CHRIST! and the deſire of my heart is, for more of his *loving* SPIRIT; that I may abide in HIM, and HE in *me* continually; — and *then*, and not *till then*, ſhall I be "*ſatisfied*, when I awake up after HIS *Likeneſs!*" I have ſtrong deſires to know and love my GOD more, and ſerve him better — for hitherto, all is nothing!

Give my kindeſt love to Mr. WESLEY, and beg him to pray and praiſe for me; for he is mine in CHRIST, and I am his ſervant for CHRIST's ſake! Though placed in another part of the vineyard, we are now walking by the ſame rule, and minding the ſame thing.

If that dear MAN OF GOD find freedom of ſpirit towards me to write me a Letter — I believe it would be very acceptable to GOD, and profitable to *me*: and though it be but a ſimple means — it may pull down a ſtrong hold of Satan!

I want the wondering world to ſay — "See, how theſe CHRISTIANS *love*," — in *deed* and in *truth*, and not in *word* only!

I know more than two or three — are agreed touching this; and the LORD will grant

grant it us — on earth now, or in heaven ſoon!

The ſame bleſſings I want for myſelf; it is the deſire of my ſoul that they may be poured out on every member of CHRIST — of every perſuaſion, kindred, tongue and people! And I know you all pray for me — who am the weakeſt — abundantly the weakeſt, of all! And I believe your prayers are heard and anſwered; for which mercy I am deeply abaſed!

I am, your ever affectionate Siſter,

J. TURNER."

In the latter end of the year, one-thouſand, ſeven-hundred and eighty, the LORD ſaw it neceſſary, for the further purification of her ſoul, to put this grace of *univerſal* LOVE to the ſevereſt teſt; — as He generally does ſuffer *thoſe graces* of his people, for which they are moſt *eminent* — to be moſt ſeverely *exerciſed!*

It was a painful ſtrait, indeed, into which ſhe was brought! — but looking unto the LORD for ſtrength, ſhe was enabled to follow what his SPIRIT, WORD, and PROVIDENCE demanded from her; though it coſt her abundance of tears! Many wakeful anxious nights, and frequent faintings, were the conſequents of the ſtruggle — between duty to GOD, and love to thoſe ſhe held moſt dear: — beſides the neceſſity of humbling herſelf at the feet of thoſe who had

had unjuſtly accuſed her; and taking upon herſelf faults — of which ſhe was not guilty before GOD!

WHAT her feelings were, may be partly gathered from the following extract from a Letter to a *calviniſt* ſiſter — Miſs E. B——n

"PRAY for me, my dear ſiſter, that no root of bitterneſs may at any time riſe in my heart! If my LOVE conſtantly flowed, as it often does, through the riches of grace — I would not change my ſtate with ANGELS! The LOVE of GOD ſhed abroad in our hearts by the HOLY GHOST, and cauſing us to *love* all that HE *loves*, and to *hate* all that HE *hates* — changes earth into Heaven — makes this *wilderneſs*, a PARADISE REGAINED! — For having JESUS we poſſeſs all things!

My dear ſiſter, however hard it is to be underſtood, I am aſſured from the *word of* GOD, and from my own *experience* — that the *unloving* ſpirit and behavior of the different denominations of CHRISTIANS to each other — their evil-ſurmiſings, their envy, — their prejudice, party-zeal, and bigotry, — are certainly a grieving and quenching of the HOLY SPIRIT! — I mean — Calviniſts againſt Arminians; — and Arminians againſt Calviniſts; — when it is certain, GOD is no reſpector of perſons, I mean PARTIES: — but thoſe that worſhip the

the FATHER, through the SON, and by the HOLY GHOST, in every place — are accepted of him!

Oh, that our beloved brethren were all wiſe, that they underſtood this! — that EPHRAIM would no more grieve JUDAH; nor JUDAH vex EPHRAIM; — that the peace of NATIONS, might be ſanctified to the peace of the CHURCH — one true, pure, holy and undefiled RELIGION! — THEN, ſhe will be terrible as an army with banners; ſtrengthened by union with fellow-members, fellow-heirs, to carry on the war with every daring foe, every darling luſt! THEN, my dear ſiſter, we might rove over all the holy Hill of ZION, without ſuſpicion, from any quarter, of defection — in our hearts or heads; cheriſhing, encouraging, aſſiſting, and moſt lovingly reproving — as need requires, and as the *Spirit*, *Word*, and *Providence* of our adorable HEAD and KING, direct! — without unkind judging and cenſuring, the unloving arraignment and condemnation of Brethren — with whom, in judgment, we ſee eye to eye, in regard to *divine* truths — but cannot, without the greateſt ſufferings of Spirit, ſubmit to that narrowneſs and contractedneſs, that human prudence, if not diabolical power, which I much ſuſpect is at the bottom! For it is not — it is not, my beloved ſiſter, "the wiſdom that

" is from *above*; which is pure, peaceable, " gentle, eaſy to be intreated — without " partiality, and without hypocriſy!"

Glory be to GOD! He has given me great power againſt thoſe evil ſpirits that would lodge in my own heart, and infect almoſt all I come near! — They are diabolical, and call themſelves by falſe names! Diſturb their falſe peace, my dear ſiſter, wherever you diſcover them! — in the name and ſtrength of JESUS you ſhall overcome; and by the love of the SPIRIT you ſhall be impowered!

A marvellous degree of Light and Love is vouchſafed to me — the weakeſt, vileſt, unworthieſt of all, — ſince I have been willing, in the day of my LORD's power, yea enabled — to rejoice in " His ſending by whom he will ſend!" — rejoicing with thoſe that rejoice, weeping with thoſe that weep;" — loving his Image *wherever* I ſee it; — cheriſhing thoſe that *do* or *ſuffer* his will, as my *mother* — *ſiſters* — *brethren*; — knowing no man after the fleſh, — doing in the name of a *diſciple*, not of a *party* — and my Happineſs is inexpreſſible! — This ſweet communion of ſaints, is ſo ſoul-ſtrengthening as well as comforting — that I cannot but wiſh others to partake of it!

But this Bleſſing, inſtead of talking much about it — deſirable as it is — we muſt pray our HEAVENLY FATHER to *be-*

ſtow

ſtow — largely and univerſally — on all the CHURCHES! I hope the time is coming when it ſhall be poured out on all — at leaſt we cannot offend any by praying for it!

My beloved ſiſter, if your heart be right with my heart, unite with me at the Throne of Grace on a Tueſday-evening, as often as you can, from eight to nine o'clock! Acquaint our dear ſiſters Johnſon with it; for, I do believe, it is the beſt way — "*to pray for the* HOLY SPIRIT's *being poured out:*" — better, much better, than *wearing ourſelves out* in perſuading the people — whoſe HEARTS are not *prepared!* — I am much united to your dear nephew! my love to his parents — accept my whole family's love, and believe me — ever

Your affectionate friend,

J. TURNER.

July 12, 1781, ſhe writes thus to her beloved couſin Miſs J——n: —

— Glory be to GOD, *all is well!* — My Bleſſed GOD is proving me, trying me before men, that His own grace may appear — His power be magnified — His great name glorified; — my ſoul profited, enlarged, more ſwallowed up in him — weaned from created carnal things — loſe my partialities, littleneſſes — and unleſs I had BELIEVED I had *fainted!*

The delightful leſſon I am learning now, is, " *The* ALL-SUFFICIENCY OF GOD;" —" All my freſh ſprings are in HIM!" — Every thing is what HE is pleaſed to make it — all bleſſings flow from Him: — and — is there evil in the city and the LORD hath not done it?"

Oh! how dear all his ſervants are to me — His are mine! Many waters cannot quench LOVE, nor can the floods drown it; — and by his SPIRIT's *might* — " I trample on *parties*, *modes*, and *forms!*"

Oh, my dear ſiſter, I am determined to know nothing, ſave JESUS CHRIST and him crucified! and my ſoul is abundantly ſatisfied at this well-ſpring of delight! I have ſat down and counted the coſt; and whatever I feel, whatever I loſe, I ſhall be an immenſe gainer! And indeed, how can I reject ſuch rich enjoyments, ſuch real happineſs — ſo frequently offered — ſo freely given!

Did my dear Huſband tell you Mr. W——n preached at our TABERNACLE, Lord's day week? — I get my own will by ſtanding ſtill; and things that I deſire are moſt wonderfully accompliſhed — " by my doing nothing!" " He that *believeth*, maketh not *haſte*:" — and we muſt never " do *evil* that *good* may come!"

I hope, I ſhall be more zealous than ever: — the nearer I am to the *centre*, may the

the *motion* be the ſwifter! But inſtead of talking much to MEN, I wiſh to pray to my GOD and SAVIOUR that my own Spirit may be "as a weaned child!" I ſpeak freely to you of the ſtate of my ſoul at all times, and your letters conſtantly help me. — Accept my kind love: — I hope you will pray for

Your poor

THOMAS, and JOANNA TURNER."

INDEED, ſhe was, the laſt half year of her life, like a little child in the arms of a tender parent; looking on herſelf as leſs than the leaſt of all ſaints; drinking into the humble loving ſpirit of her SAVIOUR; as the following ſong of praiſe to GOD, and love to chriſtians of every denomination, written a few months before her death, will teſtify: —

"MY bleſt employ, while earth is my abode,
Shall be to liſp thy praiſe, my glorious GOD!
To truſt thy wiſdom, goodneſs, love and pow'r,
And live thy praiſe my each remaining hour,
Believe in JESUS, and obey his word!
Sweet to my heart is each divine record!
My guilty ſoul, at no time can be bleſt,
But in the glorious wedding garment dreſt!
A *ſinner ſav'd!* — a *ſinner ſav'd*, I cry!
What is my Father's houſe, and what am I!
Divinely drawn — I feel the heavenly birth!
My Soul's creating new, while here on earth!
Celeſtial love ſhed in my heart abroad,
Unites to all, united to my GOD!
Subjects of mercy, miracles of grace;
In you, my SAVIOUR's *image* I can trace!

Give me your hand, receive my kiſs of love;
We'll help each other to the realms above!
No matter what's your party, name or ſect,
If to my SAVIOUR you ſhew due reſpect,
And the vain cuſtoms of the WORLD reject!"

BUT ſuch as did *not* ſhew due reſpect to her SAVIOUR — not allow him to be GOD, *equal* to the FATHER, and took pains to teach men ſo; and would not hear of the regenerating and ſanctifying influences of the HOLY SPIRIT — ſhe could not find union of ſpirit with: — but would pity, pray for, and endeavour to win them to CHRIST, by the moſt loving, perſuaſive arguments and behaviour poſſible! And never could ſhe be brought to think the way to win ſouls to CHRIST, was, by ſtrife and doubtful diſputations; making a man an offender for a word: — much leſs could ſhe allow herſelf to make a jeſt of doctrines, others held moſt ſacred; but always treated what ſhe thought ſinful, with the moſt grave and ſolemn rebuke. — What was not ſinful, not expreſsly, nor by plain conſequence, condemned of her divine MASTER, *ſhe* did not pretend to condemn as ſinful: — allowing every one the ſame liberty of conſcience ſhe enjoyed herſelf — ſaying. "Let every one be perſuaded in his own mind, and walk according to the light received of the LORD; who giveth to every one, ſeverally,

as

as they have need, for the uſe of their own Souls, and the place He deſigns they ſhall fill, in the *church*, and in the *world!*"

THUS LIVED, THUS WALKED, THUS DIED in the FAITH of GOD's ELECT, Mrs. JOANNA TURNER! — There was a ſweet expreſſion remaining on her face, of that perfect *peace*, *patience*, and *love*, with which her ſpirit was filled during her ILLNESS — when that ſpirit was returned to GOD who gave it, and nothing remained but a Lump of *lifeleſs* CLAY! — *that* CLAY, was *amiable* even in *death*: and having been the TEMPLE of the HOLY GHOST, was highly reverenced and repeatedly viſited, with a melancholy pleaſure by her *inconſolable* HUSBAND, and a large number of weeping friends, from the various denominations of *ſpiritual* people round the TOWN!

EVEN thoſe of her neighbours that had not been favoured with Her *light*, and *enjoyment* of things eternal, could not help giving a teſtimony to her moral character, by ſaying — "SHE had not left her *equal* in the TOWN, for PUBLIC and PRIVATE *uſefulneſs* — in her *family*, *trade*, and *connections!*"

HER HUSBAND, on whoſe heart this God-like character of her's was deeply engraved, ſpared no expence, to teſtify the deep ſenſe he had of her *worth*; inviting all the Miniſters who had gone up to the help of

of the LORD at TISBURY — more than *thirty* of whom gladly paid this tribute of reſpect to her MEMORY, by attending her FUNERAL! But no part of this expence was half ſo honorable to the Dead, as the múltitude of *genuine tears* that flowed from almoſt every eye! — Hundreds of perſons, with aching hearts, attending her obſequies, and lining the ſtreets as they conveyed her to the grave, ſhewed their reſpect, by the moſt decent behaviour, and the moſt expreſſive ſolemn mournful Silence!

And when the voice of the ſingers broke through the evening air, and penetrated the gloomy ſilence that reigned among the weeping female friends and relatives, that were admitted by a private way into the TABERNACLE; it is impoſſible to deſcribe the feelings of every heart! — ONE general guſt of grief burſt forth, — and changed the awful ſilence, into ſobs and groans of deepeſt woe!

THE feelings of Mr. TURNER's Heart on attending this melancholy ſolemnity, can better be conceived, by every mind endued with ſenſibility, than deſcribed by my pen! GREAT was his Loss! — being deprived by her death, not only of a moſt *amiable uſeful* WIFE, in a *temporal* — but of the moſt *agreeable* COMPANION, FRIEND and ADVISER — in a *ſpiritual* relation!

MAY

MAY All that knew or ever heard of her, take the advice of her beloved PASTOR, who preached her FUNERAL-SERMON: — "*imitating* Her example of deep ſelf-abaſement before GOD and MAN; ſaying, from a feeling ſenſe of inability to every good word and work, "I AM NOTHING;" — yet, in the *ſtrength* of the LORD, be preſſing forward, with united efforts, to ſupply her lack of ſervice! — as when a drop of water is ſuddenly taken from the OCEAN, all the circumjacent particles ruſh in to ſupply the deficiency, and reſtore the level ſurface:" — which may GOD grant, in his infinite mercy! Amen!

AND NOW, my dear FELLOW-IMMORTALS, of every character, who have peruſed theſe pages, — permit me to ADDRESS you as by a voice from the dead! —

YOU, that till now have been flying in the face of OMNIPOTENCE; — YOU, that are ſending forth your arrows, even bitter words, oaths and curſes againſt the thick boſſes of his BUCKLER; — or, if in genteeler life, dare his vengeance only by your *actions* — ſo contrary to his WILL, — which ſay continually, "Who is the LORD that we ſhould ſerve him? — we deſire not the knowledge of his ways!" — O my dear fellow-ſinners! I beſeech you to conſider, that the LORD is the GOD that made you for

for His Glory: — and if you do not *repent*, and lay hold on the atoning blood and righteouſneſs of CHRIST, through which alone he can be juſt, and yet the juſtifier of ſuch ungodly ſinners as you are — REMEMBER! — O REMEMBER! — *it will be for* HIS GLORY, you ſhould be *eternally* MISERABLE! — "THE LORD OUR "GOD, is a GREAT GOD, a MIGHTY and a "TERRIBLE: — HE will reward the doer of "*evil*, according to his wickedneſs: — HE "will eaſe himſelf of his adverſaries, and *a*-"*venge* himſelf of his ENEMIES: — O! how "ſuddenly will they conſume, periſh, and "come to a *fearful* END! — Now *conſider* "this, ye that *forget* GOD, leſt he tear you "in pieces, and there be none to *deliver!*"

AND YOU, my dear *convicted* friends, many of whom our *departed* SISTER has often ſtriven to bring to Chriſt, in *vain* — if it *be* yet in *vain:* — O! let her, though now dead, ſpeak to *purpoſe!* Only think, what her long reſiſtance to the voice of GOD'S SPIRIT coſt her! — Only think, what a HELL ſhe had in her ſoul! — what intolerable pangs of *conſcience*, that could force the tears from her eyes, almoſt continually, for two years together — and what *terrors* of *mind* muſt thoſe be, during all that time, which made her apprehend the earth would open, as ſhe paſſed the ſtreets in her *gay* attire, and let her quick into HELL! Oh! —

Oh! — if you would eſcape ſuch torments of mind, which may end in *inſanity* — DEATH — *temporal* and *eternal*, — pray earneſtly, cry mightily and continually to the LORD for *mercy*; — that he may bleſs you with a ſaving faith in the LORD JESUS, and enable you to forſake *ſin*, and plant his fear in your heart, that you may never more depart from him — "Wherefore do "you ſpend money for that which is not "bread, and your labour, for that which "ſatisfieth not? — Hearken diligently unto "your *gracious* SAVIOUR, and eat ye that "which is good, and let your ſoul delight "itſelf in fatneſs: — Incline your ear, "and come unto him: — hear, and your "ſoul ſhall LIVE!"

AND YOU, who do already feel the torments of a guilty *conſcience*, and are brought, as ſhe was, to the very brink of HELL, under the terrifying apprehenſion that the Fear of GOD is not before your eyes, and that you are loſt and undone ſinners, and are grieved and burthened with the weight of your *ſins*, and *weary* of them — I pronounce you BLESSED *mourners!* for the LORD of Heaven and Earth hath ſaid — "Come unto me, all ye that are weary "and heavy-laden — with the burthen of "ſin, — and I will give you *reſt*. — BLES-"SED are they that *mourn*, for they ſhall "be *comforted!*"

Do YOU really *fear* that you do *not* fear GOD? — Your very *fears* prove that you *do* truly fear him! — Do you look upon yourſelves as *loſt* and *undone* ſinners in *yourſelves?* — REMEMBER, you are juſt ſuch characters as CHRIST came to ſave! — HE "came, to ſeek and to ſave — thoſe that are *loſt:*" — HE came into the world, to ſave thoſe ſin-ſick ſinners, that ſee no RIGHTEOUSNESS in *themſelves:* — "He came not to call the *righteous*, but *ſinners*, to repentance!" YOU are the "*poor* and *needy*, whom the LORD *careth for:*" — therefore caſt all your care upon HIM; and if you have not *power* to do *that* — caſt yourſelves, burthen and all, upon HIM, for He hath promiſed to *ſuſtain* you! HE hath ſaid to his PROPHET — "SAY to thoſe that are of a fearful heart — be ſtrong, fear not; for I the LORD will come with vengeance; — I will come with a recompence; I will come and ſave you! — I have taken vengeance for all your ſins, original and actual, on my own SON: — HE hath drunk the bitter dregs of my wrath for you: — and henceforth, "there is no condemnation to them that are in CHRIST JESUS, who walk not after the *fleſh*, but after the *Spirit!*" — I will come and recompence his meritorious life and death, on your bleſſed heads, by beſtowing on you all his PURCHASED BLESSINGS — *ſpiritual*,

— *ſpiritual*, *temporal*, and *eternal!* — Only be ſtrong in the *faith*, giving glory to GOD! *pray* for it, if you have it not; for he hath ſaid — "Aſk, and ye ſhall have; ſeek, and ye ſhall find; knock, and it ſhall be opened unto you." — Your HEAVENLY FATHER, will give the HOLY SPIRIT, to them that *aſk* him. — Draw nigh to GOD, and He will draw nigh to you!

AND YOU, my PROFESSING brethren and ſiſters, who have taſted that the LORD is gracious, and been frequently convicted of ſin, yet halting betwixt two opinions; dividing your hearts between GOD and the *world*, between the *creature* and the CREATOR — who are yet in the wilderneſs of ſin, loving the fleſh-pots of EGYPT; — ſelf-willed, earthly-minded, having a NAME to *live* — and yet are *dead* — O THINK! how many of the children of ISRAEL periſhed in the Wilderneſs, on account of their idolatry; — ſeeking their own ways and wills, and not willing to fight the battles of the LORD; — not enduring hardſhips as good ſoldiers of JESUS CHRIST; — not willing to venture through the ANAKIMS, the mighty *Oppoſers*, — into the *promiſed* LAND! and be *exhorted* to turn to the LORD with full purpoſe of heart, leſt he deſtroy *you* alſo in the wilderneſs! — REFLECT! — if the SUBJECT of theſe MEMOIRS had followed her *firſt* convictions — how much diſtreſs

and trouble of mind ſhe had ſaved herſelf: — and how much ſooner ſhe had entered into the *liberty* of the GOSPEL — the *ſpiritual* promiſed LAND, the LAND of DIVINE *reſt* and *peace* — which flows indeed with MILK and HONEY!

AND YOU, my CHRISTIAN brethren and ſiſters, who have not only taſted that the LORD is gracious, but have long enjoyed the bleſſed comforts of his ſoul-ſupporting doctrines, and heart-reviving promiſes — Let *her* EXAMPLE, ſet forth in theſe pages, ſtir you up afreſh, to follow *Her* as ſhe followed CHRIST; to be continually vigilant, and on your guard againſt the aſſaults of your ſpiritual adverſaries! — And be ye always attentive to know, what is the will of the LORD concerning you! Let your eyes be fixed conſtantly, on the eye of your DIVINE MASTER; for He hath ſaid, "I will guide thee with mine eye — before I receive thee to GLORY." — The eye of his PROVIDENCE, SPIRIT, and WORD muſt be our conſtant guide; and we muſt pray for faith and power to obey the ſmalleſt intimations of his will! The wheels of PROVIDENCE, according to EZEKIEL, are full of *eyes*; — and it is the SPIRIT of GOD that is the *mover* of theſe wheels! And in order to know whether the Providence be *ſpecially* arranged of GOD, we muſt have recourſe to the LAW and to the TESTI-

MONY,

MONY, which is our *ſure* word of prophecy. — And being well convinced what is HIS *Will* concerning us, we muſt not draw back from following his leadings, becauſe *carnal* REASON may throw in her objections, or *erring* MORTALS may diſcourage us, who ſee not with our eyes: — but having ſet our hand to the goſpel-plough, in whatever place, method or manner the LORD hath appointed, we muſt proceed as *ſhe* did — however arduous the taſk, and however diſqualified we may appear to ourſelves or others; — remembering, that no man "goeth a warfare at his own charges:" HE that *commands* will *equip!* — Nay *more;* — HE will give ſtrength *equal* to the *day*, grace ſufficient for every duty! — Whom the divine Huſbandman employs, he will furniſh for every good word and work. — "His power ſhall ever reſt upon us; — His "*ſtrength* ſhall be made perfect in our "*weakneſs*; — He will ſupply *all* our Needs, "out of his *glorious riches in* CHRIST JESUS!"

LET US, moreover, be careful, how we diſcourage the hearts and weaken the hands of thoſe, who believe themſelves called to any extraordinary ſervices; eſpecially, when it is attended with taking up the *croſs* — and forſaking *ſelf* for GOD: — leſt by ſo doing we not only ſpoil their uſefulneſs, but cauſe the LORD's people to tranſgreſs — by drawing them back to perdition, or

to the quenching or grieving of the HOLY SPIRIT!

REMEMBER, if Mrs. TURNER had conſulted with *fleſh* and *blood*, or hearkened to *carnal reaſon*, ſhe would not have ſunk ſixty pounds of her ſmall fortune, to build a place for the preaching of the GOSPEL, at her firſt ſetting out in the cauſe of GOD: — nor, when the LORD had proſpered the work of her hand ſo marvelouſly, by filling the Houſe ſhe had built with worſhippers; would ſhe have encouraged her Huſband to build that reſpectable place at TROWBRIDGE called the TABERNACLE: — which coſt more than the whole of her fortune, and has occaſioned ſo many hundreds to come under the WORD; which has proved ſuch a ſavour of *life* unto *life* to their immortal ſouls!

AND, if ſhe had hearkened to many of GOD's dear people, who were not permitted — for a trial of her faith and obedience to the voice of GOD's SPIRIT — *juſt then*, to ſee with her eyes; ſhe would have been *withheld* from a work, as much *owned* and *bleſſed* of GOD as any of her former; namely, *introducing the* GOSPEL *to* TISBURY: — *where*, all that have ears to hear, eyes to ſee, and hearts to underſtand, muſt *now* acknowledge ſhe was *called* and *employed* of the LORD in a wonderful manner, to the raiſing up a CHURCH in that place; againſt which the gates of HELL cannot prevail!

There

There is ſuch a thing, my friends, as being *careleſs* DAUGHTERS, women that are at *eaſe* in ZION, *faint-hearted* in the cauſe of GOD, to which a *woe* is denounced! — a going two ways; — a ſtanding ſtill, or going *backwards* in the narrow road that leadeth to LIFE; — and ſo, ſpeedily getting into the broad way that leadeth to DESTRUCTION! There is ſuch a thing, as turning our *backs* on our *ſpiritual* ENEMIES; and ſo, ſuffering them to gain an *advantage* over us, and retard our courſe to the *ſpiritual* CANAAN! — Let us therefore fear, leſt a promiſe being left us of entering into his reſt, any of us ſhould come ſhort of it!" —

LET US NOT hearken to thoſe who are *faint-hearted*, and ſay, we are not *able* to go up againſt the enemies of the LORD, for they are *ſtronger* than *we*: but let us pray for CALEB's ſpirit, and for the ſpirit of thoſe who followed the LORD *fully* — who entered into His views, from a ſingleneſs of eye to His GLORY, and ſaid, "UP, *let us fight the battles of the* LORD!" — Let us, my friends, go up at once and poſſeſs the LAND, for our ſpiritual JOSHUA *will bring us in!* We are able, he ſays, in HIS *ſtrength*; — let us *look to* HIM for ſtrength! — Let us "*lift up our eyes unto the Hills from whence cometh our* HELP:" ſo ſhall our "Bow abide in ſtrength, and the arms of our hands, at all times, be made ſtrong, by the

Hands of the MIGHTY GOD of JACOB!" — Let us come out of the *wilderneſs*, leaning on our BELOVED, as our *departed* SISTER did; for *ſhe* conſtantly *truſted* in the LORD, therefore was ſhe never confounded, though men and devils roſe up in battle array againſt her! SHE was not afraid of the *great* GIANTS, the AMALAKITES, the natives of the place! She had taſted of the *pleaſant* FRUITS; and in the *ſtrength* of the LORD, ſhe determined to oppoſe them all and take *poſſeſſion*: — and ſhe was brought off "more than conqueror, through HIM that loved her and gave HIMSELF for her!"

SHE did enter and poſſeſs the LAND in *this* LIFE: — and is now, doubtleſs, in poſſeſſion of that fulneſs of BLISS — that *compleat* EVERLASTING "REST, which remaineth for all the FAITHFUL PEOPLE OF GOD!"

THE FOLLOWING PERTINENT AND EXCELLENT REMARKS, of a worthy diſſenting MINISTER, to whoſe helping hand I am indebted for many judicious reflections; — the PUBLIC, I doubt not, will think worthy of being ſubjoined!

LET IT, FIRST, be *remarked*, that in what is written, the MEMORIALIST doth not deſign to exalt the SUBJECT of theſe MEMOIRS above the rank of human beings, as

as though by her own power or holineſs ſhe were what ſhe is deſcribed; — ſo far from it, that ſhe knew aſſuredly, that ſhe had nothing of good, by nature, more than another perſon; — which Mrs. TURNER herſelf was not wanting to acknowledge, in all her correſpondence and converſation, to the laſt day of her life — as the preceding pages teſtify!

INHERENT SIN, hath put us all upon a level: ſo that, though one may be more notorious than another, no man has any thing of *merit* to boaſt of — before GOD. Our OBJECT is, to diſplay the riches of the *grace of* CHRIST: — to ſhew, by an example within our knowledge, to what a pitch *grace* can riſe; and to ſtir up the profeſſors of the GOSPEL, to be followers of HER, even as ſhe was of CHRIST JESUS!

SECONDLY, we wiſh not by what we have written, to diſcourage any who may appear to come *ſhort* of *her* STANDARD, — I ſay, *appear*; becauſe all are not in *reality* inferior to her in their attainments, who are ſo in *appearance*. STARS, inviſible in the element, may be equally bright with thoſe which are viſible to our eye — but their *ſituation* does not admit of their being *obſerved*. But let not this remark encourage the ſloathful profeſſor.

THIRDLY, However advantageous a ſituation BELIEVERS may be placed in, or whatever

whatever abilities they may have for it — it will not make them *proud* or *vain!* You can no more deprive the SUN of his *glory*, than you can induce him to take *that glory* to *himſelf!* And equally impoſſible it is for the *real* CHRISTIAN to withdraw his *ſhining* or to arrogate to *himſelf* the *glory* of his own light!

THE JUSTICE of this REMARK leads to the mention of an occurrence, not taken particular notice of in the MEMOIRS, which is — that Mrs. TURNER, dropping into the prevailing cuſtom of the METHODISTS, in chooſing a text for a *funeral*-ſubject, and knowing the high eſteem her friends held her in, many years ago, as Mr. CLARK obſerves — in her Funeral Sermon ſelected 2 Cor. 12th chapter, and part of verſe the eleventh, to be improved at the time of her *interment*. — She particularly *reminded* him of his obligation to uſe it, the evening before her death, as is mentioned in the MEMOIRS! — And does it not carry an evidence of the humble view ſhe had of herſelf, through all that time? — If ſhe had been an ANGEL, inſtead of a Human Being, ſhe would ſtill have ſaid at the concluſion of every ſucceſsful undertaking — "*Give* GOD *the* GLORY — *I am* NOTHING!"

FOURTHLY, The juſtneſs of the real chriſtian's ſentiment of his INABILITY, and his

his diſpoſition to *diſclaim* the glory of his own performances, do not ſlaken his *exertions* for the glory of GOD! He is like a child who feels himſelf deeply concerned in the advancement of his father's *intereſt*, and endeavours to *exert* himſelf for the promotion of it! If *zeal* be enervated, and we aim more at our own comfort and convenience than His GLORY, it is a proof that our hearts are not right, and that we are not ſtedfaſt in his covenant! — It beſt becomes the CHRISTIAN, to ſay, "LORD, what wilt thou have me to do?" and to make the end of *one* good work, the beginning of *another!*

FIFTHLY, OUR BLESSED REDEEMER, will acknowledge the *willing* mind, which is diſpoſed for his ſervice; and in the faithful diſcharge of it, will *increaſe* our ability, and cauſe our uſefulneſs to *grow* with our years! If we are faithful in that which is leaſt, He will bleſs and increaſe us more and more!

THE preceding REMARKS, are made to prevent *gracious* SOULS under diſadvantageous circumſtances, and dejection of ſpirit, from yielding to diſcouragement, becauſe they cannot produce an experience equivalent with Mrs. TURNER'S! But they are not intended to be a SALVO for the *lukewarmneſs* and prevailing *indifference* of our modern profeſſors of religion — who deviate

deviate as much from the ſpirit of the Gospel, as they ſhould from the ſpirit of the world; and live as much under the dominion of a *carnal* ſpirit, as they ſhould under the governance of the spirit of Christ!

It is no unuſual caſe, for people to *admire* what they will not *imitate*; and to applaud the *diligence* of *others*, while *they themſelves* ſtand all the day *idle!* It is to be feared, Mrs. Turner's *ſhrine*, will have more *admirers* than Mrs. Turner's *ſelf* will have *imitators!*

Beware, dear reader, that it be not *thy* caſe! There is no reaſon that it ſhould! Be ſuitably impreſſed with a ſenſe of the *love* of Christ — thy obligations to him, and the ſufficiency of his *grace* for thee; — and thy ſoul will no longer cleave unto the duſt, but thy affections will be ſet upon things *above!* The affections being ſo *elevated* — thou wilt be conſtantly aſpiring; and as conſtantly laying thyſelf out for his glory, who deeply humbled himſelf for *thee!* When the Apostle recommends a ſimilitude of mind to Christ, he exemplifies his *Humility* — on purpoſe to ſhew, wherein the correſpondence between Christ and the christian ſhould conſiſt! We aſſent to the propriety of the parallel, but object againſt being examples of it! Hence there are ſo few who dare

dare to be *ſingularly* good, who are bold to be *patterns* of a *Life devoted to* GOD; or, if not in providence ſet in the ſphere of a *public* EXAMPLE, ready to conform to thoſe who, being ſo ſtationed, eminently fill up and *adorn* it!

How many CHRISTIANS are there in *affluence*, who, in proportion to their circumſtances, do leſs for the GLORY of GOD, than their fellow-chriſtians in *humble* life! Why? — Becauſe their *demands* multiply as their *properly* increaſes! They cannot poſſeſs *abundance*, without living up to a pitch of GRANDEUR anſwerable to it! A *decent* appearance above the common rank, will not ſatisfy them! They muſt make a *ſplendid* figure; they cannot retrench, either from their buildings, their dreſs, or their table! The great object, SELF, is ever to be regarded; and conſequently, the GLORY of GOD and the claims of CHRIST JESUS — are ever neglected!

NOR is it leſs to be lamented, that perſons of MIDDLING rank in life, are *like-minded!* — They have got into a kind of HYPOCRISY, far from *religious*, whereby they *appear* ſuperior to what they are in *reality*; and by the *outward* APPEARANCE, are beguiled into the *inward* DELUSION, of *thinking more* HIGHLY *of themſelves than they ought to think!* They plead hard for exemption from rebuke for being conformed to this world:

world: and have perſuaded themſelves that their gay cloathing is compatible with a "transformation in the renewing of their mind!" If it were as practicable to attain to the *wearing of* GOLD, as to the *plaiting of the* HAIR, they would blow upon the APOSTLE PETER's advice; and ſooner ſuffer a member of CHRIST to *periſh*—than part with a *gold-pin!* — "As good be out of the WORLD, as out of the FASHION" — is a ſentiment almoſt univerſally adopted by the profeſſors of chriſtianity! And to comply with the extravagance of the FASHION, they unfit themſelves for thoſe works and that labour of love, which GOD and their fellow-creatures require at their hands.

How very inconſiſtent is this with the SPIRIT of CHRIST, and the example ſet us by thoſe who have drunk deep into that ſpirit! — So far as it prevails, it muſt be prejudical to the progreſs of religion in the heart — to thoſe advances in HOLINESS, which are neceſſary to bring us unto any degree of conformity to the LORD JESUS — and to make us THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD!

HAD Mrs. TURNER contented herſelf with the knowledge of ſalvation, without regarding the GLORY of GOD, in all the inſtances wherein it may and ſhould be promoted, ſhe would have been loſt to obſervation among the *multitude* — who are willing

willing to partake of the MARRIAGE-*ſupper* of the LAMB; but are unconcerned about — the WEDDING-*garment*: — who by renouncing their obligations to HOLINESS, evidence that they have no intereſt in the RIGHTEOUSNESS of CHRIST, nor inheritance in the KINGDOM of GOD!

PARTIALITY to DOCTRINES, however *true*, will not avail; if we deface the badge of our profeſſion, and ſet aſide the characteriſticks of *genuine* CHRISTIANITY! There are different degrees of chriſtianity, it is true; and, we ſuppoſe, the *ſmalleſt* makes us capable of SALVATION: but who would be ſo ſordid, as to be content *merely* to be *ſaved?* Who would not be emulous for the GLORY of GOD? who would wiſh to have *great* things done for *them* — and not be deſirous to do *great* things for HIM?

If you *are* what you *ought* to be, you will be *dead* to the WORLD, and *living* unto and for GOD! You will imitate thoſe moſt, who copy cloſeſt after JESUS CHRIST! — and by aſpiring after greater degrees of HOLINESS than you have hitherto attained; "grow up into HIM in all things, who is the HEAD, even CHRIST!"

IN THIS CONNECTION, I think, "A WORD IN SEASON" — written Auguſt 25, 1782; and addreſſed to all ranks, characters, and denominations of men, by the SUBJECT of theſe MEMOIRS — will very

 properly

properly be introduced — to *close the* WHOLE with a moſt *pathetic* EXHORTATION from her *own* pen. —

" BELOVED BRETHREN, of every denomination, who profeſs to believe in a CRUCIFIED SAVIOUR for ſalvation; — I beſeech you all to be real followers of HIM! Separate yourſelves from the fooliſh, expenſive, ſinful manners, cuſtoms and faſhions of the WORLD; and be conformed to your DIVINE EXAMPLE and to thoſe that reſemble Him! *Love* as BRETHREN; ſtrive not one with another; but all unite againſt the COMMON FOES — the *world*, the *fleſh*, and the *devil!* Only by PRIDE cometh *contention*, — and an *humble*, muſt be a *peaceable* ſpirit!

BE ZEALOUS for the ſpread of the GLORIOUS GOSPEL, and for the converſion of ſouls to CHRIST, in what manner, and by what inſtrument or means, the DIVINE HEAD of the CHURCH — by his SPIRIT WORD and PROVIDENCE, appoints! Watch and pray, in this reſpect, that you enter not into temptation! May a godly wholeſome diſcipline be introduced into every church!

YE DEAR PASTORS! be faithful to the high truſt committed to you — *the care of* SOULS: and for which you muſt give an account to HIM, to whom every thing is naked and open! Fear not the faces of MEN!

MEN! May the ſpirit of holy boldneſs, humility and love, be richly poured upon you; and may your people — as they have all profeſſed — ſubmit themſelves to you, to watch over them in the LORD — their *practice* as well as *principles!* Then, what bleſſed appearances of the LORD JEHOVAH, on our ſide might we expect, in regard to our afflicted ſtate — repecting the weather as well as the war! But Sabbaths, and faſts, and outward expreſſions of worſhip, of every kind, are an abomination to HIM that ſearcheth the hearts and trieth the reins — if not performed in SPIRIT and in TRUTH!

YE FORMAL PROFESSORS! I beſeech you, for the LORD JESUS CHRIST's ſake, whoſe bleſſed cauſe is hurt and wounded ſo much by your *unſcriptural* behaviour — for your own ſouls ſake I beſeech you, — that your condemnation may not be of the heavieſt kind, — drop your *profeſſion!* — it can do you no good: and your character will be more *conſiſtent*, more *honeſt*, and conſequently more *reſpectable*, before men! Nor will your HAPPINESS be leſs:— for neither the *form*, nor yet the *knowledge* of religion, of themſelves, can produce the leaſt degree of real happineſs — and fancied enjoyments will have an end: They are but as a dream!

TRUE RELIGION is *all* DIVINE — in its *original*, its *actings*, and its *end!* — It comes from GOD: — it is like Him: — and in hearty obedience and humble adoration, aſcends to him again! Nothing but TRUTH can be approved of by *Him!* — How *vain* then, is every merely *ſpecious* APPEARANCE before fellow worms! —

THE ALMIGHTY GOD is greatly diſhonoured at this time in this favoured *nation!* Our LAWS are moſt excellent — made to diſcountenance *ſin*; — drunkenneſs, ſwearing and ſabbath-breaking in particular, — but who is there ever puts them in *execution!* When thoſe who have the real *fear* of GOD, and *love* to MEN, would wiſh to *exert* themſelves, from the *beſt motives* MAGISTRATES will not attend to them! —

OH that there were but a proper *exertion* to diſcountenance *ſins* — of every kind! We ſhould then be the *happieſt*, the moſt *glorious* NATION upon earth! No country is ſo favoured with DIVINE LIGHT — but how is it *rejected* by ſome, and *abuſed* by others!

OH! that MAGISTRATES — both the great and the inferior ones — would be *impartial* in the defence and execution of the LAWS! Perſons ſhall be baniſhed their native country — yea, deprived of their *lives*, — if they STEAL — but *once:* — but no notice is taken of *ſabbath-breaking*, taking the LORD'S

LORD'S NAME *in vain*, or *profane curſing* and *ſwearing*, through their *whole lives* — though equally FORBIDDEN both by the *divine* and *national* LAW! — WHAT an *account*, will MAGISTRATES as well as MINISTERS, have to give at the day of JUDGMENT! —

MY HEART is enlarged, and filled with LOVE to my KING and COUNTRY, and to all ranks and degrees of men! I wiſh the reformation and the ſalvation of ALL! The *greateſt* as well as the *leaſt* are the CREATURES of GOD, and owe ſubjection to HIM! — ALL ſhould *fear*, all ſhould *reverence* and *obey* HIM — WHO —

Not circumſcrib'd by time or ſpace,
Sees every heart, fills every place;
And makes all NATURE bow before HIS FACE!

"OF HIM, AND THROUGH HIM, AND TO HIM, ARE ALL THINGS: TO HIM BE GLORY FOR EVER. AMEN!" Romans xi. 36.

THE END.

ERRATA.

Page 16. l. 17. for *my* read *many*.—p. 40. l. 2 from the bottom, place the comma at the top of the s in Ladies'.—p. 63. l. 16. r. *signally*.—p. 72. l. 26. for *as Goliath* r. *as the Angel of the Lord*.—p. 100. l. 21. r. *satisfactorily*.—p. 120. l. 8. r. *rejoice*.—p. 137. laſt l. r. *glowing*.—p. 155. l. 15. r. *to which the Lord may incline them*.—p. 225. l. 21. for *ſent* r. *ſend*.—p. 242. l. 26. r. *kept*.—p. 248. l. 6. r. *doze*.—p. 251. l. 29. r. *their*.—p. 301. l. 27. r. *ſuffering*.

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